



Shojo Beat Manga

Kamikaze Girls



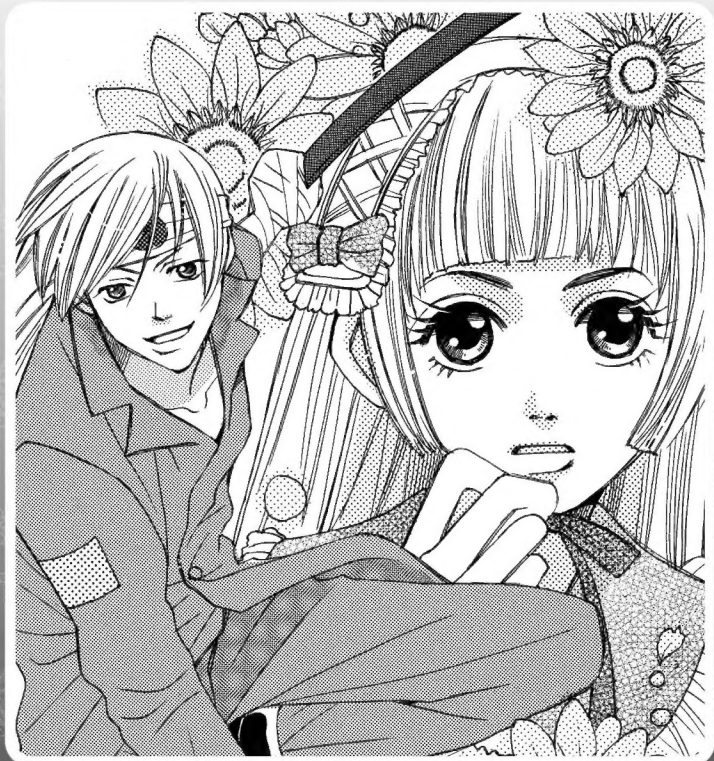
Story by

Novala Takemoto

Art by

Yukio Kanesada

Kamikaze Girls™



Story by
Novala Takemoto

Art by
Yukio Kanesada



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Story & Art by Yukio Kanesada



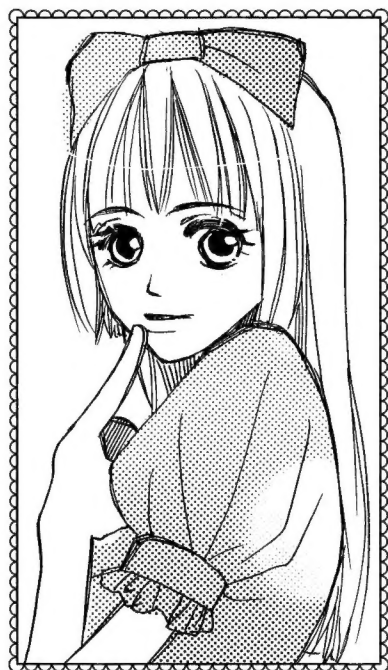
Kamikaze Girls™

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY NOVALA TAKEMOTO
ART BY YUKIO KANESADA

ONLINE

WIKI

FOR



OH...
WHAT FINE
WEATHER
IT IS
TODAY.

DOING
EMBROIDERY
AS A HOBBY
IN THE EARLY
AFTERNOON.

TAP

A TEAPARTY
BY THE
WINDOW,
LACE CURTAINS
FLUTTERING
IN THE WIND.

CORSETS
TIGHTENED
UNTIL YOU
ALMOST
THROW UP
BLOOD, AND
DRESSES
WITH LOTS OF
PANNIERS
UNDERNEATH.

LATE
18TH
CENTURY
FRANCE.

LAZY
AND
BEAU-
TIFUL
...

...LIKE A
SWEET,
SWEET
CONFEC-
TION
...

THIS
IS THE
WORLD
I LIVE
IN...

CLICK

I WILL
GO TAKE
A WALK
OUTSIDE.

...NOT. THIS IS
SHIMOTSUMA,
IBARAKI
PREFECTURE.
A PLACE FAR
AWAY FROM THE
ROCOGO WORLD.

TING-A-
LING

BUT
NO ONE
GREET'S
ME.

Good
m-

Good
morning.

Good
morning,
ma'am.

PEACEFUL
PEOPLE
GREET
EACH OTHER,
EVEN IF THEY
DON'T KNOW
EACH OTHER.

THERE
ARE
NOTHING
BUT RICE
PADDIES
ALL
AROUND.

OF
COURSE
...

ABLOUSE
WITH
FRILLS ALL
OVER, A
HEADRESS,
DRAWERS,
A PANNIER.

BECAUSE
I'M A LOLITA
WHO'S
INHERITED
THE
ROCOGO
SPIRIT.

...IN THIS AGE,
I'M NOT
SURPRISED
THAT PEOPLE
CALL THIS A
'STRANGE
LOOK.'

Is it for
Kin-chan's
fancy-dress
contest
on TV?

Is it
someone's
wedding
today?

I
FOUND
YOU.

T
M
P
T
M
P
T
M
P



...MOMOKO
RYUGASAKI,
RIGHT?



...I HAVE
NO
FRIENDS.

YOU'RE
...



YOU'RE FAMOUS.
YOU'RE ALWAYS
WALKING AROUND
WEARING FRILLY
CLOTHES, AND
WALKING ALONE
SLOWLY LIKE
A TURTLE...

...DON'T
YOU HAVE
ANY
FRIENDS
?

NO...



YOU'RE
DRESSED
WEIRD.

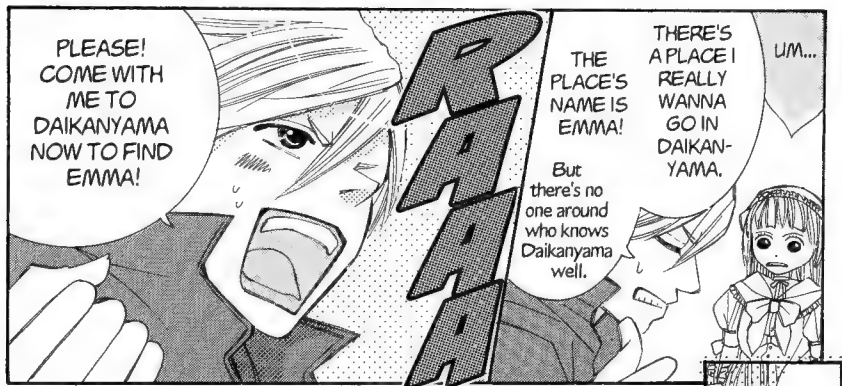
YOU
TOO,
DORK!

SHE AGREED WITHOUT REALIZING IT.



*YAMA MEANS 'MOUNTAIN' IN JAPANESE.





ALL
RIGHT.
I WANT TO
FIND EMMA AS
QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE.

DAIKANYAMA
IS
FAR AWAY,
AND I NEED
SOME
MONEY.

YES. A
LOLITA CAN
BECOME A
QUICK DEVIL
IF SHE CAN
GET MONEY
TO BUY MORE
CLOTHES.

HOW
ABOUT
10,000
YEN?
Guide
fee.

YOU'RE
QUICK
WHEN IT
COMES TO
MONEY.

IF I
GET ON A
BIKE, MY
HEADRESS
WILL GET
MESSED
UP.

By the
wind.

HEAD
DRESS

WHAAAT
?

FOR A
LOLITA,
THESE CLOTHES
ARE EVERY-
THING.

I DON'T
WANT TO RIDE
ANYTHING THAT
INTERFERES
WITH MY LOLITA
SPIRIT.

It's
just a
dish-
cloth
...

GET
ON MY
BIKE!

THEN
WE'RE
GOING
TO GET
SOME
FUNDS!

NO.



NO
MATTER
HOW FAR
A PLACE IS,
I WALK
THERE.

THAT'S
MY
POLICY!



SHE'S
LIKE THIS,
SO SHE
HASN'T
MADE ANY
FRIENDS
SINCE
WE MOVED
HERE FROM
OSAKA.

Please be
good friends
with her!

YOUR
FATHER
?

OH, IT'S A
FRIEND.
THAT YOUR
BOYFRIEND
?

I DON'T
REALLY
UNDER-
STAND,
BUT...

IS THIS
PERSON...
JUST
STUPID?

...YOU'RE
COOL!

Being
fooled by
the word
"policy"...

YOU
LOSER-
OF-A-
FATHER!

**T
A
D
A**

MOMO-
KO?

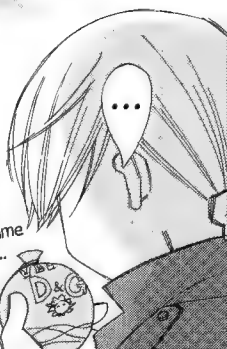
YOUNG
MAN, I'LL
GIVE YOU
SOME-
THING
GOOD.



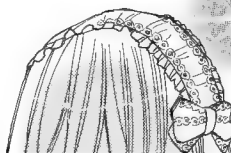
HE'S A TEKIYA WHO SELLS HIS JUNK IN STALLS AT FESTIVALS AND STUFF.

MY WORK INVOLVES TRAVELING ALL OVER JAPAN, SELLING DREAMS TO CHILDREN AT EVENTS!

A water yo-yo with a brand name logo...



ONLY FOOLS EXIST IN THIS WORLD.



...HE'S A MAN!

*KANSAI-BEN = KANSAI DIALECT

...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR TASTE IN CLOTHES, BUT I DO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU LOVE THOSE CLOTHES.



I WON'T SPEAK KANSAI-BEN, BECAUSE ...

HEY, YOU DON'T SPEAK KANSAI-BEN.*

Your dad does.

...KANSAI-BEN DOESN'T SUIT LOLITAS!



...PASSIONATE
FEELING
I HAVE FOR MY
GIRL-BIKER
GANG...

IT'S
THE
SAME
...

BUT
I'M KINDA
HAPPY
THAT YOU'RE
WEARING
YOUR
CLOTHES
PROUDLY.

PEOPLE
STARE
AT ME
WHEN I'M
DRESSED
LIKE
THIS.



Girl-
biker
gang?



WHAT?

WHAT'S
WITH YOU?
YOU CAN'T
BELIEVE I'M
FEMALE?
OR...

YOU'RE
A
GIRL
?!

YOU
FOOL!
YOU
ASKED FOR
10,000
YEN!!

This is the
best place
to make
quick money!

TALL
AND
WITH
THIS
ATTITUDE
...

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THAT THE
FIRST PLACE
I GO WITH
SOMEONE
MY AGE IS A
PACHINKO
PARLOR.
How
awful.

BOTH.

...YOU'RE
NOT HAPPY
THAT WE'RE
IN A
PACHINKO
PARLOR?

CHING
CHING
CHING

CHING

DAMN

Maybe
I should
change
machines.

...I THOUGHT
HE WAS
A SLIM,
BEAUTIFUL
BOY...

...BUT
HE
WAS A
GIRL...

UM...

WHAT
?!

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?





...ICHIGO
SHIRAYURI.

D-
DON'T
LAUGH.

I'M...



WHAT?

THEY KEEP
COMING
OUT.
the pachinko
balls...

Listen
to me,
will
ya.?

ICHIGO.

Ichiko
sounds
more like
I'm a gang
member,
and
strong!

ICHIGO
DOESN'T
SOUND SO
COOL, RIGHT?
CALL ME
ICHIKO.



HEY
MOMOKO
...

I'LL...

P-ZO
P-ZO
P-ZO

P-ZO





YOU
LITTLE
PUNK!
I...I USED
TO BE A
BOXER!



A
BOXER
?!
Crap!



DON'T
YOU DARE
TOUCH
HER!

ICHIGO
!



PAP



THESE
KIDS
DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING.



I WAS
WATCH-
ING.





...YOU'LL
BREAK
YOUR
FINGERS.

AND IF
YOU KEEP
CLENCHING
YOUR FIST
LIKE THIS...

KPKK

OW!

...IT'S THE
PARLOR'S
FAULT YOU
COULDN'T
CATCH
THEM.

AND
EVEN IF
THEY DID
CHEAT
...



YOU
UNDER-
STAND,
DON'T
YOU?

IF YOU
USED
TO BE A
BOXER.





UM, ANYWAY,
I WAS A
LITTLE UPSET
BECAUSE...
YOU KNOW...

YOU'RE
GOING TO
GRAB
THEM?

WH-WH-WHAT'RE
YOU SAYING?!
IF I'M FIGHTING
A GUY, I CAN
GRAB THEIR
B*LLS, NO
PROBLEM!
THE NEXT TIME,
I'LL GRAB
HIS B...B...

ICHIGO,
ARE YOU
AFRAID
OF
GUYS?

You're
all red.

MS.
SHIRAYURI,
THAT IS...

YOU DON'T
LOOK AT A
GUY YOU'RE
GOING TO
FIGHT LIKE
THAT...

...BE-
CAUSE
YOU FELL
IN LOVE,
ISN'T IT?

...LOOKING
AT HIM
UNTIL HE'S
COMPLETELY
OUT OF
SIGHT.



MY BONNET!
THERE ARE
MOTH HOLES
IN MY
BABY'S
BONNET!

HMPH? WHAT
HAPPENED
MOMOKO?
WHAT'RE YOU
SCREAMING
ABOUT?

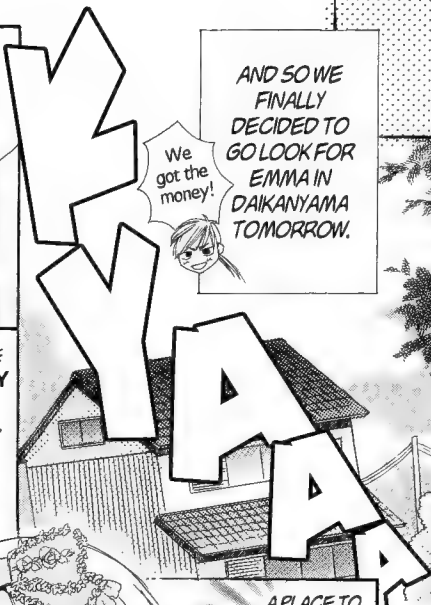
We
got the
money!

AND SO WE
FINALLY
DECIDED TO
GO LOOK FOR
EMMA IN
DAIKANYAMA
TOMORROW.

...THERE ARE
LOLITA CLOTHES,
ALL RADIANT
AND SHINING
AND BRIGHT,
A STARRY
HOLY PLACE!

IT'S A
VERY
SMALL
STORE,
BUT...

THERE'S THE
MAIN **BABY**
STORE IN
DAIKANYAMA.



A
bonnet?
IT'S A
BABY'S HAT.
WHY DON'T
YOU SCRIBBLE
A PICTURE
AND COVER
IT UP?

Write a brand
name logo
on it.

A PLACE TO
GO DRESSED
UP FORMALLY
AS A
LOLITA!

I WAS
GOING TO
WEAR IT
THERE!



Cover
it up?

Girls
nowadays are
too violent.





SO I
DON'T
NEED ANY
FRIENDS.

THE MORE
PEOPLE
THERE
ARE AROUND
YOU, THE
LONELIER
YOU COULD
FEEL.

Hey,
wait,
you
dork!



...YOU DON'T
FEEL
LONELINESS
WHEN
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
ALONE.

HEY...

...THE MORE
ALONE
YOU ARE.

THE MORE
DIFFERENT
YOU ARE
FROM THE
PEOPLE
AROUND
YOU...

YOU'RE
BUYING
ALL
THAT?

HUH?
WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?

THIS
AND
THIS
AND
THIS!

YES,
YOU
ARE!

Sheesh

I DON'T
BELONG
HERE,
DO I?



COULD
YOU CHECK
THE
CONTENTS
OF THIS
BOX...

Damn
it!

YOU
SAID
10,000
YEN!

OOPS

BAM
BAM
BAM

WHITE.

Ack

SORRY
MOMOKO!
You
okay?

Ouch.

PINK.

OH
DEAR...

FRILLS
THAT ARE
ALMOST
TOO MUCH
LACE,
LACE,
AND MORE
LACE.

IF I'M
COVERED
IN
BABY'S
CLOTHES
I...

HUH?







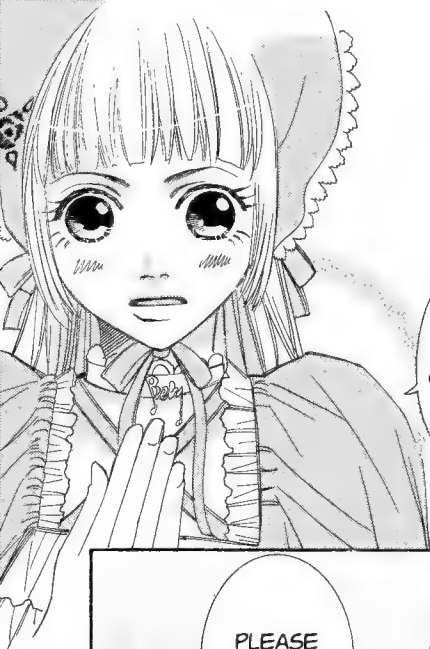
MR. ISOBE, SHE'S
MS. RYUGASAKI.
SHE WAS ALWAYS
MAIL-ORDERING OUR
CLOTHES WHEN
SHE WAS LIVING IN
KANSAI.

OH...

...I'M
SORRY, IT
LOOKED LIKE A
PROFESSIONAL
JOB.

IS
THAT
RIGHT
...





A
CHOKER.



HUH?

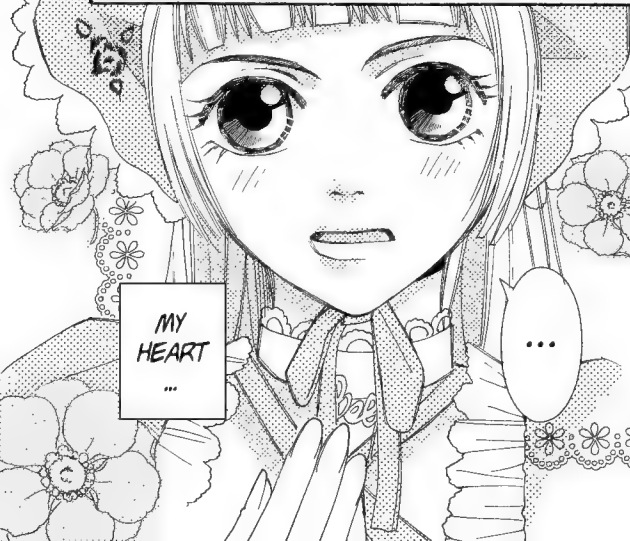
TMP

THIS
IS FOR
YOU.



PLEASE
ACCEPT
IT.

B-
B-
B-
P



MY
HEART
...

...

B-
B-
B-
P

See
you.



BEAT
THAT
GUY
UP?

...BEAT
SO
FAST.

SHOULD
I GO AND
...

M-MO-
MOKO?
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
MOST
OF
WHAT
YOU'RE
SAYING
...

SHAKE
SHAKE

Gak

HE COMES
FROM
LOLITA
HEAVEN,
SHINY AND
BRIGHT
LIKE A
STAR.

H-
HE'S
MY
GOD
!

HE'S
BABY'S
PRESIDENT
AND CHIEF
DESIGNER,
SIR ISOBE!

SIR
ISOBE
!

COME ON,
HE WAS
WAY TOO
FRIENDLY.

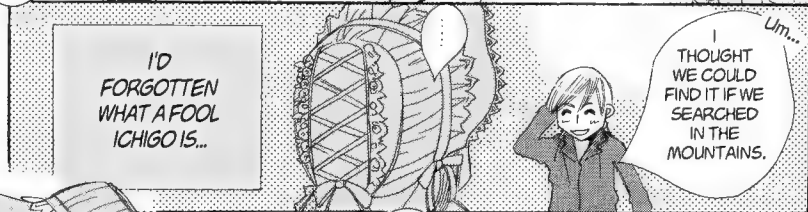
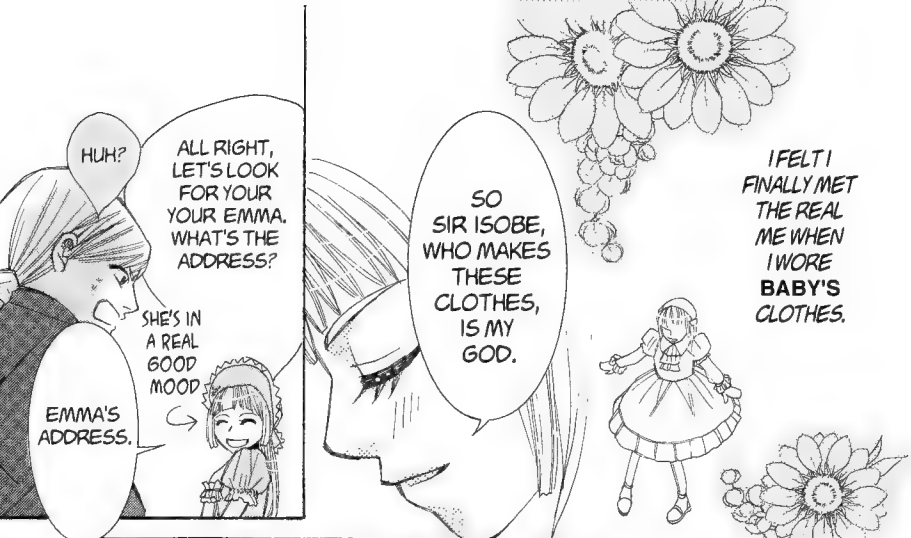
I hate
guys
like
that.

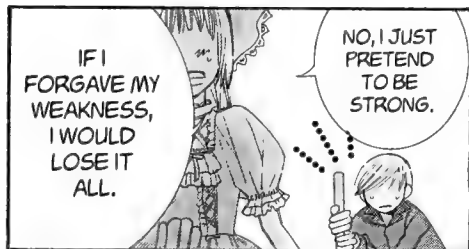
WHO?

...I KNEW
WHAT
"LOVE"
MEANT.

I FELL
IN LOVE
WITH THE
CLOTHES
THE WAY
YOU FALL
IN LOVE
WITH A
PERSON.

WHEN I
FIRST
SAW THE
CLOTHES
BY HIS
BRAND,
BABY,
THE
STARS
SHINE
BRIGHT
...



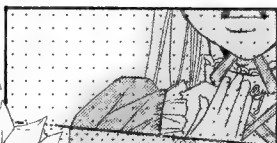




...THANK
YOU
MOMOKO!

EMMA...
EMBROIDERY
SCHOOL?

TH...



ICHIGO
SMILED AT ME
LIKE SHE WAS
SO HAPPY...

...SO I
FELT THAT
SOMETIMES...

...IT'S GOOD
TO DO
SOMETHING
FOR OTHER
PEOPLE.

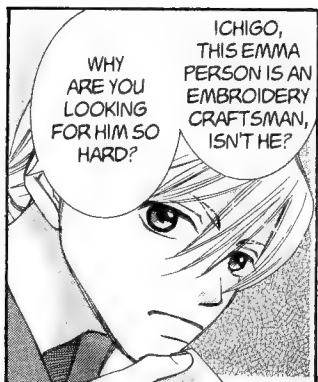


THEN
THERE'S
NO STORE
NAMED
EMMA?

THE
CRAFTSMAN
IS DEAD?

What?!





WHY
ARE YOU
LOOKING
FOR HIM SO
HARD?

ICHIGO,
THIS EMMA
PERSON IS AN
EMBROIDERY
CRAFTSMAN,
ISN'T HE?



OH
NO...

YEAH...
SUPPOSEDLY
IT EXISTED
UNTIL A
FEW YEARS
AGO...



...THE
NAME OF MY
SAVIOR, A
SENIOR GANG
MEMBER,
AND MY
GOD...

I WANT
HIM TO
DO SOME
EMBROIDERY
ON THIS
KAMIKAZE
COAT...

...



YOUR
GOD?

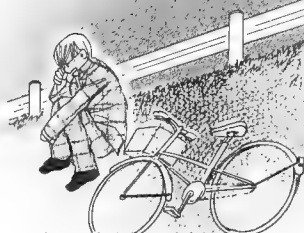


...AND
SO I RAN
AWAY
FROM
HOME
DURING
SPRING
BREAK.

WHEN
I WAS IN
MIDDLE SCHOOL,
I WAS TREATED
LIKE A SLAVE
BY THE YANKI IN
MY CLASS, AND
I DIDN'T KNOW
WHY I WAS
ALIVE...

I
BECAME
A YANKI
AFTER I
ENTERED
HIGH SCHOOL.

...I STARTED
CRYING,
THINKING
THAT NO MATTER
WHAT I DID, MY
LIFE WAS ALWAYS
GONNA BE LIKE
THIS...



I RAN
AWAY ON MY
BICYCLE AT NIGHT,
AND BIKED AS FAST
AS I COULD...BUT
THE TIRE WENT
FLAT...

"WHY'RE
YOU
CRYING
?"

THEN...
A BIKER
GANG
PASSED
BY ME...

...AND
ONE
YANKI
CAME
BACK.

"DID YOU
LOSE
SOME-
THING
AROUND
HERE?"

"NO?"

"DID A
DUMB-
ASS
MALE
YANKI DO
SOME-
THING
TO
YOU?"

SHE
WAS
SURPRIS-
INGLY
KIND TO
ME.

I WAS SO
SCARED,
I COULDN'T
SAY
ANYTHING...



"IT'S NOT
JUST YOU,
EVERYONE
HAS THEIR
PROBLEMS."

"SO
DON'T BE
ASHAMED
TO CRY."

WHEN SHE
LOOKED
AT ME, I
STARTED
CRYING
AGAIN...

"BUT A
WOMAN MUSTN'T
CRY IN PUBLIC,
'CAUSE THEN
PEOPLE WILL
FEEL SORRY
FOR YOU."

"YOU
CAN'T BE
A STRONG
WOMAN IF
PEOPLE FEEL
SORRY FOR
YOU."

"ARE YOU
SCARED?
ARE YOU
HURT?"

I FELT
THAT MANY
THINGS THAT
HAD STUCK IN
MY HEART
WERE FLOWING
OUT WITH MY
TEARS.

"ARE YOU
WORRIED?
HAVE YOU HAD
ENOUGH OF
THINGS?"

"IF YOU
GOTTA
CRY, CRY
WHEN
YOU'RE
ALONE."



SHE'S
RETIRING
FROM THE
BIKER
GANG AND
GETTING
MARRIED.

SO WHEN
WE DO HER
RETIREMENT
PARADE, I WANT
TO PUT HER NAME
AND THE WORDS
"THANK YOU" ON MY
KAMIKAZE COAT,
AND SHOW IT
TO HER.



I
THINK...



STUPID!
I DON'T
HAVE
TO BE
COOL!

...THAT'S
UNCOOL,
FOR A
GANG
MEMBER.

Thank
you? You
should
at least
write it in
kanji...



"
...
AND
"

"...IF YOU
CRY,
BECOME
AS
STRONG
AS THE
TEARS
YOU'VE
SHED."

I'M
HERE
TODAY
...

...BECAUSE
OF HER.



THAT'S
WHY
YOU
WERE
TRYING
SO
HARD
TO FIND
EMMA...

I DON'T
HAVE TO
ACT COOL
AT A
TIME LIKE
THIS!



HEY...

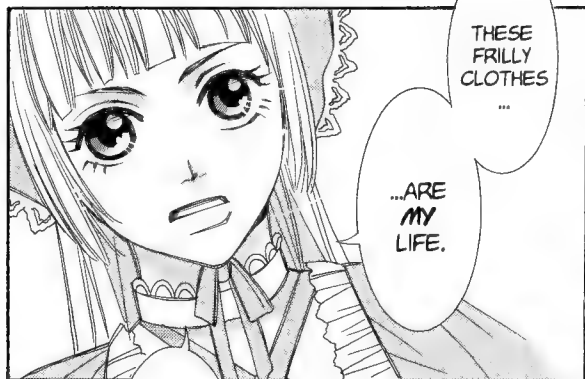
...WHY DON'T
YOU LET
ME DO THAT
EMBROIDERY
FOR YOU?



...BUT
I'LL DO
RESEARCH
ON THE
DESIGN AND
STUFF.

I MAY BE
NOWHERE
NEAR AS
GOOD AS
EMMA...

WHAAAT
?



THESE
FRILLY
CLOTHES
...

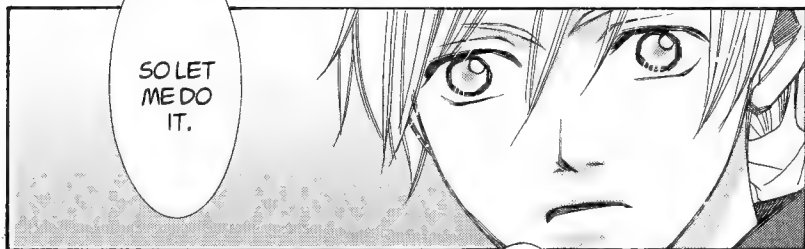
...ARE
MY
LIFE.



HOW
CAN
I LET
A FRILLY
GIRL LIKE
YOU...

-YOU
STUPID!
THIS
COAT
IS MY
SOUL!

YES.



SO LET
MEDO
IT.



I'LL
LEAVE
MY
SOUL...

...WITH
YOU,
MOMO-
KO.

EMMA
...

THE
WOMAN'S
NAME IS
"AKIMI-
SAN."

GOT IT.

...MUST BE AN EMBROIDERY CRAFTSMAN WITH "SOUL."

Don't catch a cold!

SNEEZE

BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY CRAFTSMEN AROUND.

JUST AS LOLITA CLOTHES ARE MY LIFE, THE KAMIKAZE COAT IS ICHIGO'S.

FWP

Oops

BUT ICHIGO DIDN'T WANT TO ASK ANY CRAFTSMAN.

I'll eat it later.

Hey, dinner's ready!

ICHIGO'S SOUL...

...IS IN MY HANDS.

亜樹

AMAZING!
I'VE NEVER
SEEN COOL
EMBROIDERY
WORK LIKE
THIS!

HOW
DO YOU
LIKE
IT?

IT'S...

WOW!

...BEAU-
TIFUL.

"THANK YOU"

"AKIMI-SAN"

...BUT ICHIGO
LOOKED AT THE
EMBROIDERY...

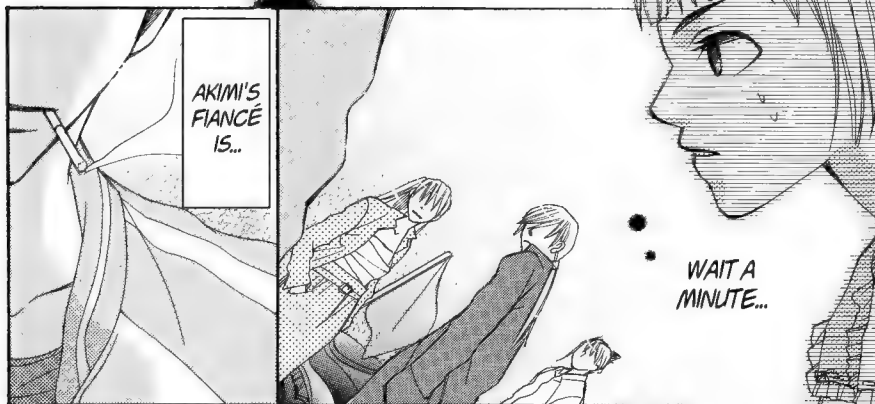
...ONLY WORDS
LIKE "COOL"
AND "STRONG"
EXISTED
IN ICHIGO'S
HEAD....

I
THOUGHT
...

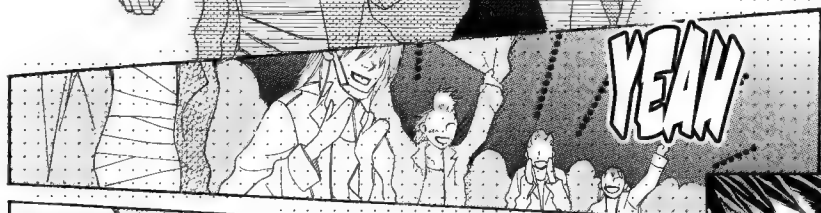
...AND
SAID "IT'S
BEAUTIFUL."



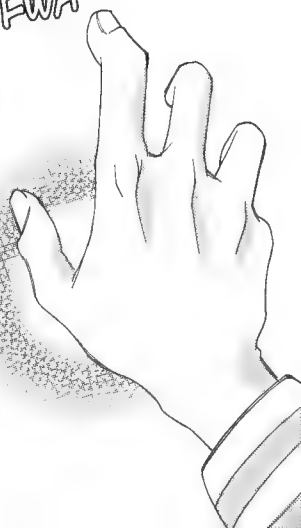


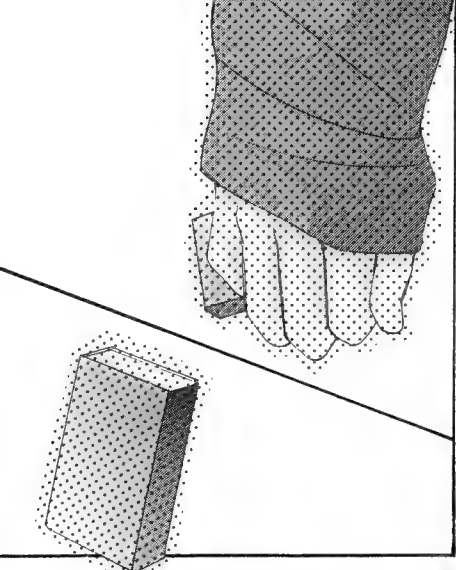


...THIS
MAN
?!



FWA





ICHIGO
?

ICHIGO

...

SHE
HUGGED ME
SAYING
THAT THE
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CRYBABY HAD
GROWN UP
A LOT.

THANKS
FOR THE
EMBROID-
ERY.

AKIMI-
SAN
WAS SO
HAPPY.

I SAW
THE
PARADE.

What?
O-OH.

Waaah!
MOMOKO,
WHY THE
HELL ARE
YOU
HERE?!

...AND
AT THE
VERY END,
WE SET OFF
ROCKET
FIREWORKS
...

WITH
AKIMI-SAN
IN FRONT,
WE RODE
DOWN 20,
THEN WENT
THROUGH
ROUTE
56...

THEN
A GUY
STEPPED
OUT OF THE
DARKNESS
...

I
SAW
THAT
TOO.

I
SAW
THAT.

...
WE
WISHED
HER
WELL...



YEAH

BUT



A
WOMAN
SHOULDN'T
CRY IN
PUBLIC,
RIGHT?

HEY
MOMOKO



...THERE'S
NO ONE
HERE RIGHT
NOW.





ICHIGO

...

...WIPED
HER EYES
WITH MY
HANDKER-
CHIEF...

SNEEZE

AND
EVEN BLEW
HER NOSE
INTO IT.

BUT
I...

...DECIDED
TO LET IT
GO THIS
TIME.



You're cool as always, dad!

Hey Ichigo!

...ICHIGO STARTED TO COME TO MY HOUSE OFTEN, FOR NO APPARENT REASON.

TEE HEE

SINCE THEN, FOR SOME REASON...

BIRDS OF A FEATHER...

A PHONE CALL FOR YOU?

You don't have any friends, so who's calling?

MOMOKO! I CAME TO GIVE BACK YOUR HANDKERCHIEF. ♡

...EXCUSE ME FOR CALLING YOU SUDDENLY.

UM...

HELLO ?

I'M ISOBE OF BABY, THE STARS SHINE BRIGHT.

?



PLEASE
SIT
DOWN.

U...
U/M...

I'M SORRY,
I GOT YOUR
PHONE NUMBER
FROM THE
CUSTOMERS'
LIST...



MY
HELP?

...I MEAN,
I NEED
YOUR
HELP, MS.
RYUGASAKI.

I'D
LIKE
TO...



I'D
LIKE
YOU
TO...

...DO
SOME
EMBROIDERY
ON OUR
JUMPER.



SIR
ISOBE
?!

MS.
RYUGA-
SAKI!

THE
SAMPLE FOR
THIS SEASON'S
NEW ITEM
CAME IN, BUT IT
DIDN'T HAVE THE
EMBROIDERY
DONE.

WE HAVE
TO TAKE PHOTOS
FOR OUR ADVERTISEMENT
THREE DAYS FROM NOW...
BUT IF WE ASK THE
FACTORY TO MAKE A
NEW SAMPLE, IT WOULD
TAKE LONGER
THAN THAT...

...AND I
REMEM-
BERED
YOU.

WHAT
THE
...?!

THIS...

...IS
THE
PRO-
DUCT.

...

IT WAS LIKE
ME, BORN
TO WEAR
BABY'S
CLOTHES,
NOT BEING
ALLOWED
TO WEAR
BABY'S
CLOTHES...

You
take
more
than
an hour
just to
eat
your
break-
fast!

NO,
MOMOKO!
YOU CAN'T
DO IT IN
THREE
DAYS!

BUT THE
EMBROIDERY
WAS
MISSING.

THE
JUMPER
WAS BORN TO
HAVE ROSE
EMBROIDERY
DONE ON IT.

GULP

MAY
I ASK YOU
TO DO
THE ROSE
EMBROIDERY
FOR THIS?

DO
YOU THINK
YOU CAN
DO
IT?



I WILL
DO IT.

...LIKE
ICHIGO,
NOT
WEARING
HER
KAMIKAZE
COAT...

Are
you
serious
?!

Thank
you!!





...IT IS
LIKE A
CHILD
...
...CRYING,
NOT BEING
ABLE
TO FIND
HER REAL
SELF.



HOLD
ON...

...JUST A
LITTLE
BIT
MORE...

THIS IS
THE THIRD
DAY, YOU
KNOW.

It's
already past
noon.

YAWN

HEY...

...MOMO-
KO...



I'M
ALMOST
DONE.

I'M
DONE!

FWIP

FWIP

FWIP



MOMO-
KO...



THE
PHOTO
SHOOT...
ALREADY
BEGUN
...

I HAVE
TO
HURRY...
TO THE
STUDIO...



MO-
MOKO
?!

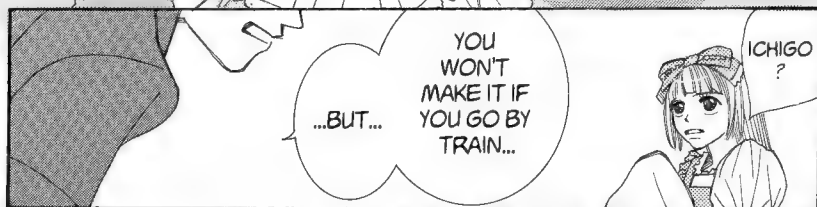
**S
W
O
O
N**

I'M
D...



I'LL
TAKE
IT.

...GIVE
IT TO
ME.



...BUT...

YOU
WON'T
MAKE IT IF
YOU GO BY
TRAIN...

ICHIGO
?



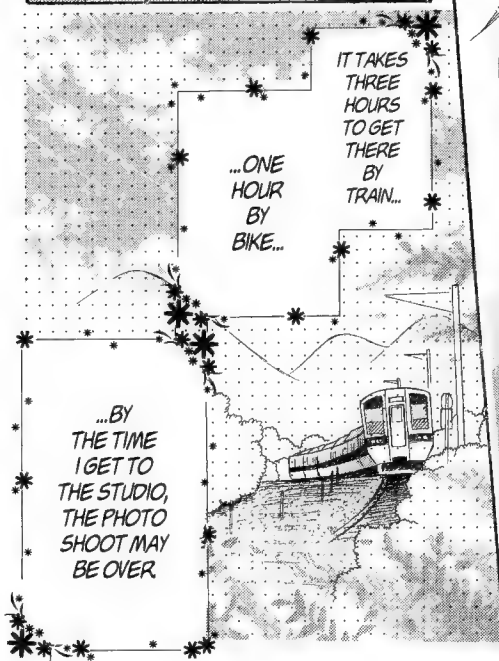
YOU
COME BY
TRAIN,
OKAY?

I'LL GO
WITH
...

ICHIGO
...



...IF I
TOOK
IT ON
MY BIKE,
I'D MAKE
IT.

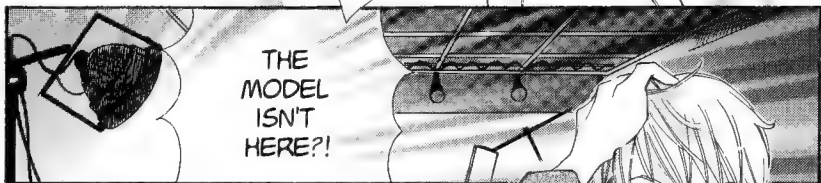




I'M
SORRY
I'M
LATE!

BUT I
WANTED
TO SEE...

...THE
GLORIOUS
MOMENT
OF THE
RE-BORN
JUMPER...



THE
MODEL
ISN'T
HERE?!



DON'T YOU
HAVE ANY
EMPLOYEES
WHO CAN
MODEL
INSTEAD?

OH NO...
WHEN I
WORKED
SO HARD
ON IT...



NO,
BECAUSE
THIS SKIRT
WAS MADE
FOR THE
MODEL, SO IT'S
NOT SIZE
NINE.

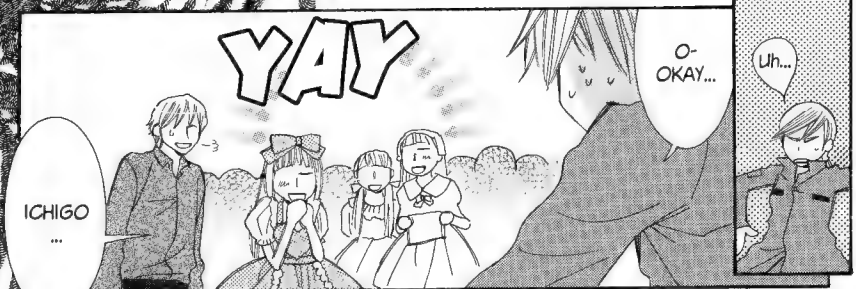
SHE
HAS TO
BE AT
LEAST
170 CM
TALL...



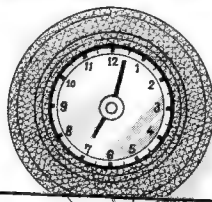
THE
MODEL
SUDDENLY
CALLED
IN SICK...

...IT'S AN
ADVERTISEMENT
FOR A MAGAZINE,
SO WE HAVE TO
SHOOT IT
TODAY...





TICK BUT TOCK



I
DESIGNED
THOSE
CLOTHES.



...SHE
DOES
HAVE THE
HEIGHT...
...but
she's a
Yanki...

...MR.
ISOBE,
CAN SHE
MAKE
IT?



GULP

...AND
THE GIRL
BROUGHT
IT ON HER
BIKE.

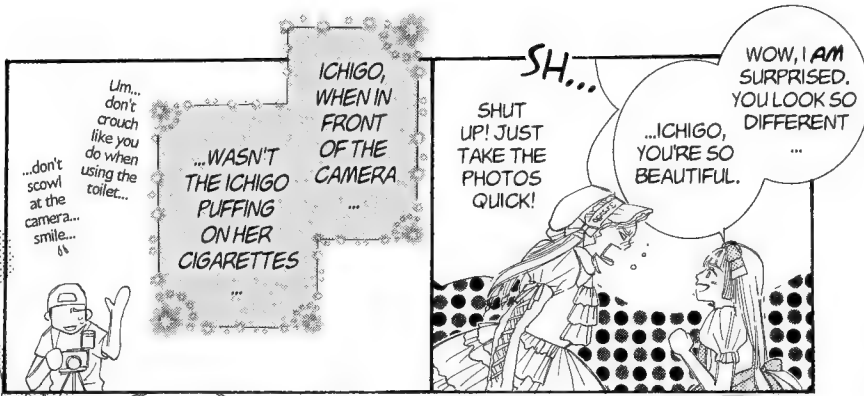


MS.
RYUGASAKI
DID THE
EMBROIDERY,
GOING
WITHOUT
SLEEP...



SHE'LL
DO
IT.

ICHIGO
...



Um...
don't crouch
like you
do when
using the
toilet...
...don't
scowl
at the
camera...
smile...
!!

...WASN'T
THE ICHIGO
PUFFING
ON HER
CIGARETTES
...

ICHIGO,
WHEN IN
FRONT OF
THE CAMERA
...

SH...

SHUT
UP! JUST
TAKE THE
PHOTOS
QUICK!

...ICHIGO,
YOU'RE SO
BEAUTIFUL.

WOW, I AM
SURPRISED.
YOU LOOK SO
DIFFERENT
...



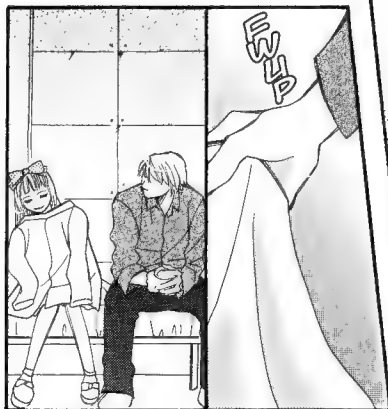
...LIKE
THE
FAIRY
PRIN-
CESS
BORN
FOR
BABY
...

...hmm
...

Whaddaya
...

...SHE
WAS...

E...ehe



...SHINING
AND
RADIANT.

ZZZZZ

YOU
DID A
REALLY
GOOD
JOB.

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH.



BABY • THE STARS
SHINE BRIGHT
www.babyxsb.com/jp/



HEHEE

YOU
LIKE YOUR
BIKE
BETTER?

I'M
NOT
INTER-
ESTED.

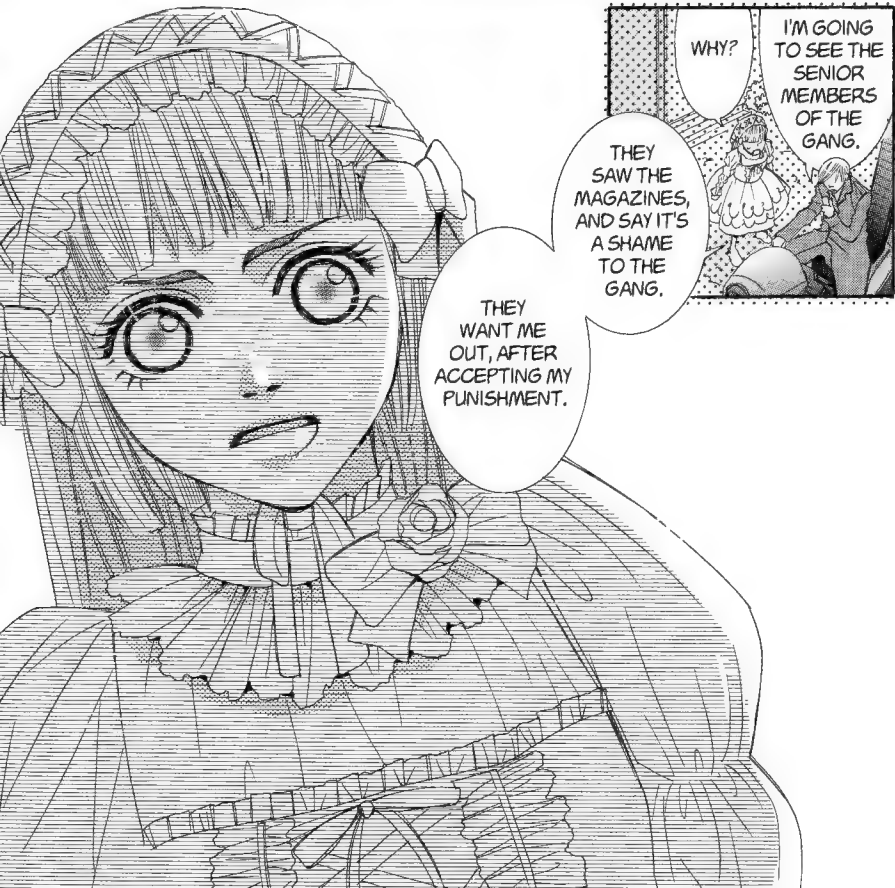
THIS
PHOTOGRAPH
IS REALLY
POPULAR! WHY
DON'T YOU
BECOME A
MODEL?

DON'T
KEEP
STARING
AT IT!

OF
COURSE!

CATHY X





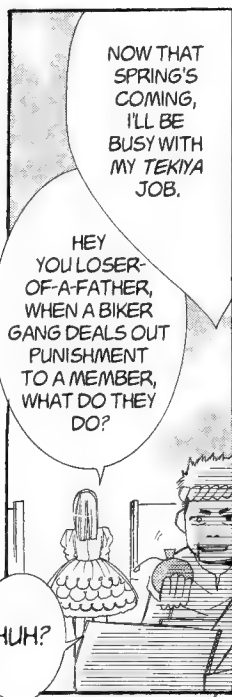


IT'S A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY.
I'LL RIDE
MY BIKE ALONE
FROM NOW.

ACTUALLY,
AFTER AKIMI-SAN
RETIRED, THE TEAM
RULES SUDDENLY
BECAME STRICT, AND
WHAT SENIOR MEMBERS
SAID BECAME LAW, AND
I WAS BEGINNING TO
FEEL UNCOMFORT-
ABLE.

SO I'LL
GO...

...AND
RECEIVE MY
PUNISHMENT.



NOW THAT
SPRING'S
COMING,
I'LL BE
BUSY WITH
MY TEKIYA
JOB.

HEY
YOU LOSER-
OF-A-FATHER,
WHEN A BIKER
GANG DEALS OUT
PUNISHMENT
TO A MEMBER,
WHAT DO THEY
DO?

SHE
CAME,
AND SHE'S
ALREADY
LEAVING?

Ichigo
is a busy
one.

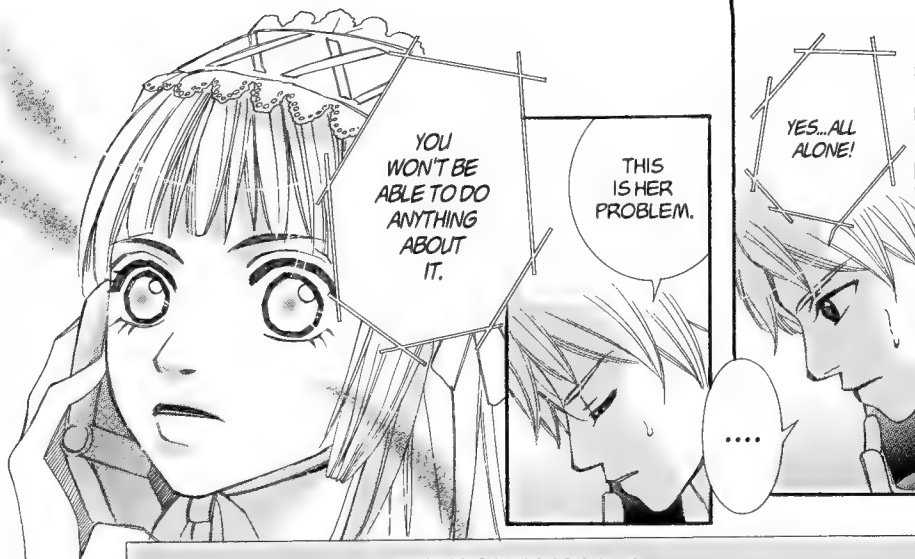
HUH?

ICHIGO...

KRAK







I ALWAYS THOUGHT BEING
ALL BY MYSELF WAS FINE.



ALWAYS...





...THAT
I NEVER
NEEDED
ANY
FRIENDS...

...SHE'S...

MOMO-
KO?

WHY
AM I
GOING
...?

...A REAL
FRIEND OF
MINE!

BMP

!

...EVEN IF
I DID GET
THERE,
WHAT
WOULD I
BE ABLE
TO DO?

YAAAAA

THAT'S
MY
BIKE!!



AM I
GOING
THERE
TO SAVE
ICHIIGO?

KRAK

...I'M...

GRIP

NO...

...I'M
GOING
FOR MY
SAKE.

ICHIGOOOO
!!



DM

I-...

...JUST
HAPPENED
...
...to drop
by...

MOMO-
KO!

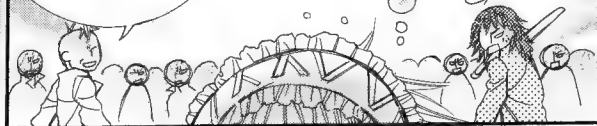
WHAT
THE HELL
DID'YA COME
HERE
FOR?!

THIS GIRL
DOESN'T
MAKE
FRIENDS
SO
EASILY.

HEY
ICHIGO, YOU
CALLED THIS
FRILLY FRIEND
TO HELP YOU
OUT?

OH
NO!
THERE
ARE
ALMOST
30 GANG
MEMBERS!

WHAAAAAT
?!



SHE'S
ALWAYS
STANDING
BY
HERSELF.

ICHIGO
...

SHE
DOESN'T LET
ANYBODY INFLUENCE
HER, AND SHE LIVES
BY HER OWN
RULES.



YOU
GUYS HAVE
TO KEEP
CONFIRMING
THAT YOU'RE ALL
FRIENDS OR
FELLOW
MEMBERS, CUZ
YOU'RE AFRAID
OF BEING
ALONE.

YOU
GUYS CAN'T
EVEN WALK
UNLESS
YOU'RE IN A
GROUP.

SHAKE





SHE'S
IN A
CLASS
ALL HER
OWN.

SHUT
THE HELL
UP!!

A
LOLITA

...

SLAM

ICHIGO
!



WHAM

ICHIGO!

...MUST
BE
GRACE-
FUL...

TAKE
THAT!

GET THE
RAZOR
BLADE
OUT.

HEH

...ALWAYS
CALM...

GRIP

I'LL CUT
YOUR FACE
UP SO YOU
CAN NEVER
MODEL
AGAIN.

...AND
BEING
BEAUTI-
FUL
IS
EVERY-
THING.



A LOLITA
MUST BE
ELEGANT.

...

BUT...



HEH

...EVEN
IF IT'S A
LOSING
FIGHT...

**T
V
D**

...A GIRL
MUST,
EVEN
IF SHE
CAN'T BE
ELEGANT...

HUH?

YOU
STUPID
SKANKS
...



...MUST
JOIN
THE
BATTLE
!!

!



A manga panel featuring two characters. In the foreground, a girl with long, light-colored hair and large, expressive eyes looks shocked or angry, with her mouth wide open. She is wearing a white dress with a large bow. In the background, a boy with short, light-colored hair and a serious expression looks on. A large, jagged speech bubble above him contains a threatening message. A smaller, oval speech bubble below him shows his reaction. At the bottom of the panel, there is a large, stylized sound effect 'BAM' and a small inset showing two characters in a state of panic. The background is filled with motion lines and small circular patterns.

I'LL
KILL EACH
AND EVERY
GOD DAMN
LAST ONE OF
YOU LAME-ASS
BITCHES!!

M-
MOMOKO
?

BAM



GRRR

HEY...

LET'S
ALL HAVE
FUN WITH
THESE
YO-YOS,
HUH?

BLOP

!

BLOP

A
WATER
YO-YO?

THIS
GIRL...
CAN IT
BE...?

WHO
WANTS
TO DIE
FIRST?

YOU?

BING

NO!

WAAAAH
!



ACK!

WAIT A
MINUTE
!

WHAT'S
WITH THIS
FRILLY
GIRL?!

W-WE'RE
LEAVING!

L-LET
GO OF
ICHIKO!
SHE'S
SERIOUS!!



I FORGOT
TO TELL
YOU GUYS
SOME-
THING...

...THESE
FRILLY
CLOTHES

...

...ARE
CALLED
LOLITA!!



IT'S
ALL RIGHT...
IT WAS
HALF BROKEN
ANYWAY.

SORRY
ABOUT
YOUR DAD'S
BIKE...

IT'S
NOT
ABOUT
THE
BIKE.

I TOLD
YOU, DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT THE
BIKE.

DAMN,
YOU DID
ME SUCH
A BIG
FAVOR.



BUT
THIS
FAVOR
IS SO
HUGE...

...I
WOULDN'T
BE ABLE
TO
RETURN
IT!

SOL...

...WAS THINKING
THAT THE LACE
FLUTTERING
IN THE WIND OF
THE BIKE ISN'T
THAT BAD
AFTER ALL...

NO.

HUH?
YOU SAY
SOME-
THING?

★ D-
DM

A
boar! DAMN!

OINK

OINK

★ D-
DM

LOOK!
IN FRONT
OF THE
BIKE!

?

WEIRD
GIRL...



...I
WHISPERED
SOFTLY
TO
ICHIGO...

"I
REALLY
LIKE
YOU,
ICHIGO."

NUMBER
ONE IN
SHIMOTSUMA,
NUMBER ONE
IN THE WORLD,
MAYBE EVEN
MORE THAN
BABY'S
CLOTHES...



I
REALLY
REALLY
LIKE
YOU!!

a Yanki
version of
Molotov
cocktails...
I'm surprised
you knew
about it,
Momoko.

YOU
KNOW, WHEN
WE WENT TO
BEAT UP PEOPLE
IN REVENGE, WE
MADE BOMBS
BY PUTTING
GASOLINE IN
YO-YOS.

BOM!

WHAT?
?!

OINK OINK



I WENT TO DO AN INTERVIEW OF THE MOVIE VERSION OF KAMIKAZE GIRLS.



Kamikaze Girls

(Ichigo's Case)



Original idea by
Novala Takemoto

"ICHIGO'S CASE" IS A CONTINUATION
OF NOVALA TAKEMOTO-SENSEI'S
KAMIKAZE GIRLS, CREATED FOR *DELUXE BETSUCOMI*.
THUS I BORROWED THE CHARACTERS OF
KAMIKAZE GIRLS, TO EXPRESS IT VISUALLY,
IT WENT SOMETHING LIKE THIS:



PRINCE NOVALA

VRRRRN

ALL I
NEED IS
THIS 50 CC
MACHINE
WITH SOUL...



It's
only a
moped.

I RIDE
MY BIKE
ALONE
NOW, BUT I
DON'T
MIND.

MY NAME IS
ICHIKO
SHIRAYURI.
I'M A FORMER
MEMBER OF A
GIRL-BIKER GANG,
AND I REALLY
LOVE MY BIKE.

...AND
YUTAKA
OZAKI'S
SONGS.

YES, THIS
IS MY
HEAVEN,
SHONAN
BEACH IN
YOKOHAMA...

NNN—

HMM?

...ROUTE
134
BY THE
BEACH,
WHICH
I RUN,
FEELING
THE WIND
FROM
THE SEA...

WHAT
IS
THIS
?!

A
poster
?

I don't
know...

BABY + THE STY.
SHINE BROS.

...NOT.
THIS IS
SHIMOTSUMA,
IBARAKI
PREFECTURE,
FAR AWAY
FROM
SHONAN.

...I'M
THE LONE
WOLF OF
SHIMOTSUMA
...

Mom,
what's
this?

No
one
calls
you
that.

AND
WHO'S MAKING
ALL THOSE
UNNECESSARY
COMMENTS,
HUH?!

WHO
PUT THAT
POSTER
UP
THERE?!

TIP
TIP

IT'S
BOTH
...

PLEASE!

WHAAT?

...BUT
ALMOST
NO ONE
KNOWS I
MODELED
FOR A LOLITA
CLOTHES
BRAND.

I KEEP
TELLING
YOU TO CALL
ME ICHIKO,
DORK!

...I CAN
CALL
A REAL
FRIEND.

THIS IS MOMOKO
RYUGAKASAKI.
SHE IS A REAL
SELF-CENTERED
LOLITA WITH A TERRIBLE
PERSONALITY. BUT FOR
SOME REASON, SHE'S
THE ONLY ONE...

IT'S
ALL RIGHT.
YOU CAN
CONTINUE
MODELING
INSTEAD.

I CAN'T
RIDE MY BIKE
WITH SUCH
AN UNCOOL
NAME.

BUT
YOUR
REAL
NAME IS
ICHIGO
SHIRAYURI
!

NO
WAY
!!!

...ME.
I LEFT A
COPY OF
THE POSTER
AT YOUR
HOUSE TOO,
ICHIGO.

THE
GUY I
FELL
IN
LOVE
WITH
...

THE
INVITATION
FOR A NIJKAI...
MUCH MORE
CASUAL THAN
A WEDDING
RECEPTION...

Can I
open it?

SO
WHY'D YOU
CALL ME
UP? I'M
WORKING...

SWIP

I
BROUGHT
THIS.

IT'S
FOR
YOU.

NO.

THEY'RE
HOLDING
A CASUAL
PARTY
THERE.
ARE YOU
GOING?

THE
VENUE IS
THE COFFEE
SHOP CALLED
THE "FOREST
OF THE
NOBILITY."

...THINGS
LIKE
THAT
HAPPEN
OFTEN.

...WAS
GETTING
MARRIED
TO MY
FAVORITE
SENIOR
MEMBER
OF THE
BIKER
GANG...

...YEAH.

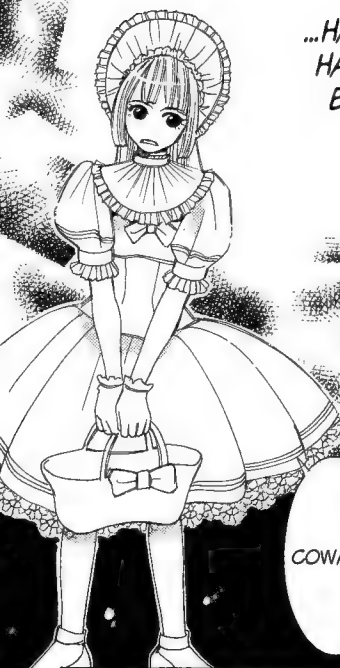
THE
SHINSENGUMI
DOES NOT
ATTACK
THE KIRA
RESIDENCE.

...THE
SHINSEN-
GUMI
GOES TO
ATTACK
THE KIRA
RESI-
DENCE...

THAT
DAY,
THERE'S A
PERIOD
DRAMA ON
NHK...

YOU
JUST CAN'T
BEAR TO SEE
HIS FACE,
RIGHT?

y...



...HAD NEVER
HAPPENED
BEFORE.

COWARD.



...I
THOUGHT
MY
HEART
WOULD
BURST.

WHEN
I
FIRST
SAW
HIM...

BE-
CAUSE
HE
WAS MY
FIRST
LOVE.



...OZAKI'S
SONG
RANG
IN
MY
HEAD.

THE
FIRST
TIME I
LOOKED
INTO HIS
EYES...

...WHEN
HE
TOUCHED
ME...

THINGS
LIKE
THAT...



ICHIGO
?

THANKS
TO HER,
I WON'T
CRY
ANY-
MORE...

...BUT IF I
SEE
SOMEONE
WHO LOOKS
LIKE HIM
FROM
BEHIND...

YOU
LEARN
ABOUT
IT IN
SCIENCE
CLASS!



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
?!

STUPID.
A COWARD
BECOMES A
BUTTERFLY
SOMEDAY,
AND FLIES.



LIKE
THIS.

UM...
HE LOOKS
EXACTLY...

GACK

...!
FREEZE.

...LIKE
THE GUY
YOU USED
TO BE IN
LOVE
WITH.

HE
JUM-

DDDD

A
YANKI?





CH

ROUGH!
ROUGH!

...

AREN'T
THERE ANY
BEAUTIES
HERE LIKE
AKIKO
YADA?

THERE'RE
ONLY ROUGH
WOMEN IN
SHIMO-
Tsuma!

But his
personality
seems a
little
different.



DON'T MAKE
FUN OF
SHIMOTsuma!
AKIKO USED
TO FIGHT A
LOT WHEN SHE
WAS YOUNG
TOO!

ICHIGO
?

I'LL GO
BEAT
THE
CRAP
OUT OF
HIM!

THAT'S
WADA!
AKIKO
WADA!

I DON'T
CARE! I'M
GONNARING
THAT JERK'S
BELL!



!?



ICHIGO
...

B
A
I
N
T
A
C
K
L
E



I'M
RYUJI.

...UH...

UM...

!
THE
PACHINKO
MAN!...UH
NO...

YO.

HEY, WE
MEET
OFTEN.

ICHIGO
?



YUP.

THANKS!

...CONGRATULA-
TIONS
ON YOUR
WEDDING.



B-BMP

B-BMP

YES,
ICHIGO
SHOWED
ME THE
INVITATION.

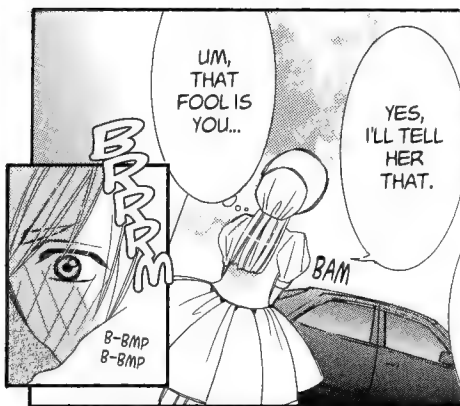
YOU'RE
ALONE
TODAY TOO.
WHERE'S
YOUR
FRIEND?

THE
NIJIKAI IS
AT THE
"FOREST
OF THE
NOBILITY,"
SO
PLEASE
BE
THERE.

SHE
MAY HAVE
COMMITTED
SUICIDE BY
THEN.

SHE'S
A LITTLE
DOWN,
BECAUSE
OF A
LOST
LOVE.

B-BMP



THAT SUCKS. TELL YOUR FRIEND THAT THE GUY WHO DIDN'T NOTICE HER CHARMS IS A FOOL.





THIS
GUY'S
FACE...

I DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO FOOL
AROUND WITH
YOU.

Your
name
is...
...RAICHI
...

...ASA-
ZUMI?

4181 5978
09/06 V
RAICHI ASAZUMI

YOU
DROPPED
SOME-
THING.
A
card?

...LOOKS
LIKE
HIS...

WHAT
A STUPID
CONVER-
SATION...

SHUT UP!
LYCHEE IS A
VERY IMPORTANT
INGREDIENT
IN ASIAN
DESSERTS!

Kera
kera kera
kerarino
sadorovich!

RAICHI!
WHAT THE
HELL IS THAT!
SUCH A FRUITY
NAME!
TROPICAL
LYCHEE!

TWINS
?!

No wonder
you guys look
alike!

TWINS

I'M
RAICHI
ASAZUMI,
AGE 20.
RYUJI IS
MY...

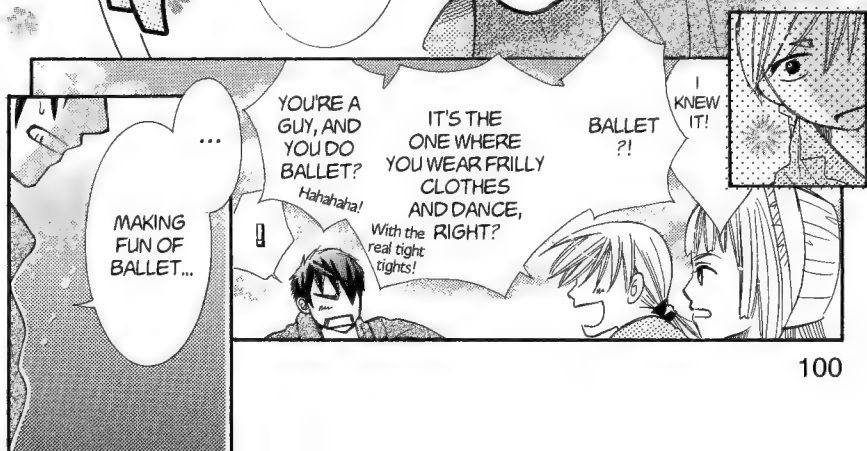
LOOK
AT MY
LAST
NAME!

...TWIN,
MY OLDER
BROTHER!

GET
UP, HE'S
GONE.

!

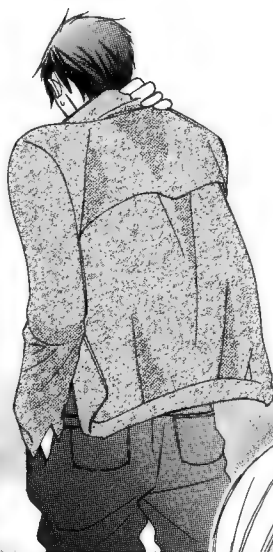
WHWP





HEY...

...MAD?



WHY'S
HE...

THAT'S
WHY I DIDN'T
WANNA
COME BACK
HERE.



WHAT'RE
YOU
LOOKING
FOR?

You're
not
listening.

hmmmm
?

hm

hm

HERE IT IS!
HE'S IN THE
CORP'S DE
BALLET,
SO I DIDN'T
NOTICE HIM AT
FIRST!



...DID I SAY
SOMETHING
TO MAKE HIM
MAD?







WH-

MONKEYS
AND FOOLS
LOVE HIGH
PLACES.

That
was an
enlève-
ment.

WHAT
WAS THAT?!
WOW! THAT
WAS SO
HIGH UP!

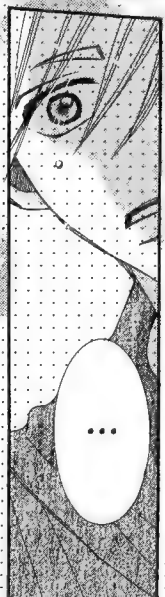
HEH

I CAN
GO EVEN
HIGHER
ALONE.



...WAS
GOING
TO BE
SWALLOWED
BY THE
SKY...

I
THOUGHT
HE...



MY
PARENTS PUT
ME IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
BASEBALL TEAM
WHEN I WAS LITTLE,
SAYING THAT BOYS
SHOULD PLAY
OUTSIDE...

...WHEN I TOLD
THEM I WANTED
TO DO BALLET,
MY DAD BEAT
ME UP, SAYING
THAT REAL MEN
DON'T DO
BALLET...



THAT'S
WHY I
DIDN'T
WANNA
COME
BACK
HERE.

WELL...

...IF
YOU'RE NOT
LIKE OTHER
KIDS, THEY
TREAT YOU LIKE
YOU'RE REALLY
WEIRD.



HEY?

YEAH, A
MALE DANCER
HAS TO LIFT A
GIRL. YOU CAN'T
DANCE UNLESS
YOU HAVE THE
PHYSICAL
STRENGTH.

S-SO
THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE
WORKING
OUT? THAT
MUST BE
HARD.



THAT'S
AWFUL.

EVERYBODY
BURSTS OUT
LAUGHING
WHEN THEY
HEAR THE
WORD
"BALLET."

They say I'm
a she-male
or gay.

YOU
LAUGHED
TOO,
DORK.





I THINK MY
OUTFIT IS WAY
COOLER, BUT
MOMOKO PREFERS
HER FRILLY CLOTHES
...I HATE JAPANESE
AND ENGLISH, AND
THE ONLY CLASS
I ENJOY IS
SHEET METAL
PROCESSING.

WHAT'S
NORMAL IS
DIFFERENT
FOR
EVERYONE.

BUT
I THINK
EVERYONE
ELSE IS
WEIRD.

YOU
CAN
ONLY SAY
THINGS
DIRECTLY,
HUH?

...YOU
ARE
WEIRD.



YOU
COULDN'T
STOP
LOVING
BALLET.



IT'S ALL
RIGHT.
EVEN IF YOUR
DAD HIT
YOU, YOU
COULDN'T
STOP
DANCING,
RIGHT?



YOU'RE
NOT
WRONG.

THAT'S
WHAT'S
"NORMAL"
FOR YOU.

...



YOU'RE
ATTENDING
THEIR
WEDDING
CEREMONY
?

YOU LOOKED
CUTE FOR A
SECOND
THERE.

WHAT
?!

FOR A
SECOND
?!



HUH?!

Kuranosuke
Oishi is
not a
member
of the
Shinsen-
gumi.

THAT
DAY, ON
THE PERIOD
DRAMA
ON NHK,
KURANOSUKE
OISHI OF THE
SHINSEN-
GUMI...

...

I HAVE AN
AUDITION
IN TOKYO
THAT DAY. IF
I MAKE IT,
I CAN DANCE
ONSTAGE AS A
SOLOIST.

I'M
NOT
GOING.

I'LL
BE ABLE
TO DANCE
ALONE ON
CENTER
STAGE.

WHO'D
BRING YOU
GOOD LUCK
THEN?

NO, DON'T
CHEER ME
ON. YOU'D
BRING BAD
LUCK.

GO
FOR IT,
RAICHI.

I
REALLY
...

...WANT
TO
MAKE
IT.

THAT'S
ME,
STUPID!

BABY★THE★
SHINE

HMMM...
SOME-
BODY
LIKE...

...THAT
?

...

SHEESH.

Go
to
hell!

IF A CUTE GIRL
LIKE THAT SAID
"PLEASE DO YOUR
BEST," I FEEL I CAN
MAKE THE AUDITION
WITHOUT EVEN
DANCING
FOR IT.



THE
PARTY IS
IN TWO
DAYS, ISN'T
IT?

I'm looking
forward to
it.



HERE
ARE YOUR
CLOTHES.

size L

MOMO-
KO!

I'M NOT
GOING!
AND
WHY'RE YOU
ARRANGING
THINGS,
HUH?



ONLY
FOOLS
EXIST
IN THIS
WORLD-

EVEN IF I
THINK I'VE
FORGOTTEN

...

...EVEN IF I
THINK I'VE
GIVEN UP...



...IF I
SEE
HIM...



BECAUSE...

...I
CAN'T
HELP
IT.



CUZ
IT'S
FUN.

Watching
you being
upset.

YOU...



...I
CAN'T
STOP...

...MY
HEART
FROM
ACHING...

HEY.

UGH

I'M SORRY,
BUT I CAN'T
ATTEND
THE
WEDDING.
THIS
AUDITION IS
ALL I'VE
GOT.

MY DAD
BEAT ME UP
AGAIN WHEN I
TOLD HIM I'M
GOING TO THE
AUDITION.

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
FACE?

You got into a
fight?

UM...

...I'LL
GO WITH
YOU.

I...I
DECIDED
I WANT TO
CHEER
YOU ON...

YOU'RE
NOT
ATTENDING
THE
CEREMONY
...

YOU
THINK
TWO OF
US CAN
RIDE ONE
MOPED
TO
TOKYO?

NO...I MEAN,
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
TOKYO, IT'S
FASTER BY
BIKE THAN
TRAIN, SO
I'LL
DRIVE
YOU
THERE.

WHAT'RE
YOU, A
COME-
DIAN?

WHAT
ABOUT THE
WEDDING?

IF I
HAVEN'T
TAKEN THE
ENTRANCE
EXAM, I
CAN'T
GET INTO
SCHOOL.

...BECAUSE
YOU STILL
LIKE HIM.







?!

SLAM

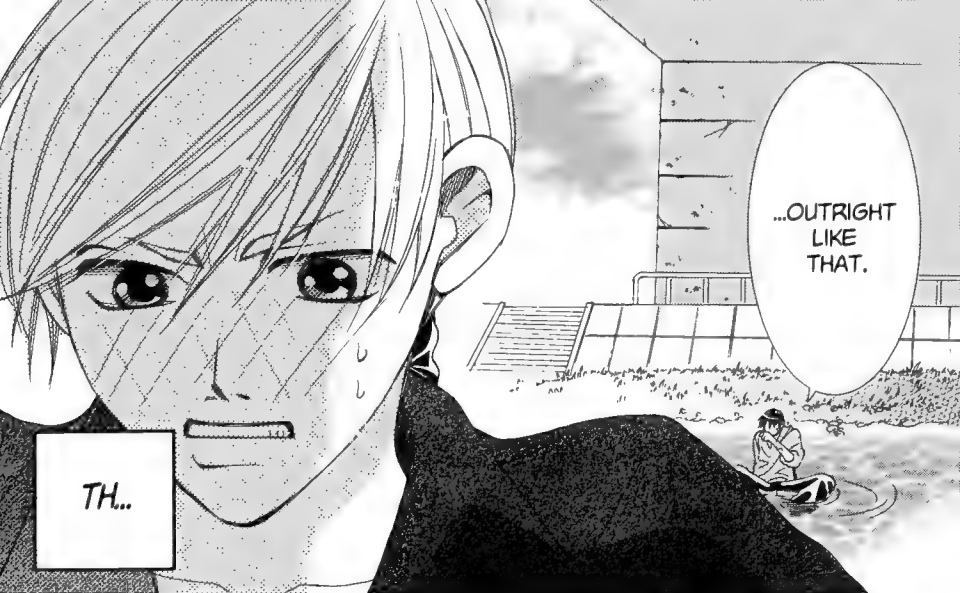
TAKE
ADVANTAGE?
IS THERE
SOMETHING
TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE
OF?

OUCH.

SPLASH

DON'T
YOU TAKE
ADVANTAGE
OF ME.

DON'T
REJECT
ME...



...OUTRIGHT
LIKE
THAT.

TH...



I DIDN'T
UNDER-
STAND
THE TITLE
OR THE
CONTENTS
AT ALL.

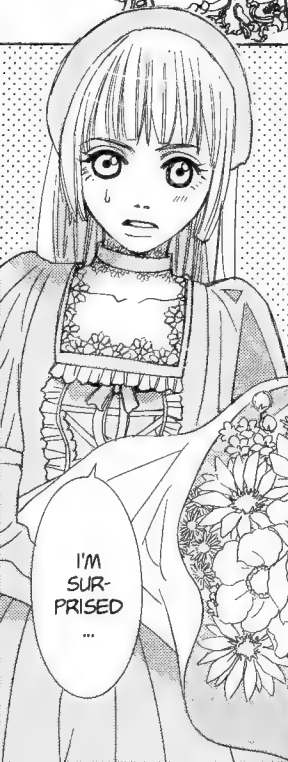
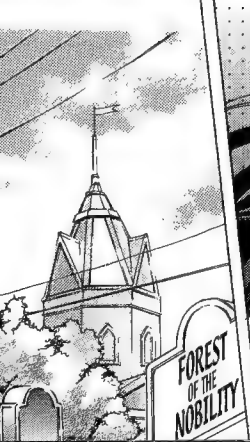
...I
WATCHED
THE DVD
OF THE
BALLET.

THAT
NIGHT
...

THAT
SCARED
ME.

BUT
RAICHI,
DANCING
ON THE
EDGE OF
THE TV
SCREEN...

Don't
try to do
weird things,
stupid!!



...AND
SHINING.



...WAS
BETTER,
AND
DANCING
WITH
MORE
SOUL,
THAN
THE
MAIN
DANCER
...

...SO
COOL
...

I'M
SUR-
PRISED
...



I HAVE
"ROYAL MILK
TEA" HERE
EVERY
DAY.

SHUT
UP. WHY'RE
YOU
HERE?!

YOU'RE
LYING.

YES. I
CAME HERE
BECAUSE
THINGS
LOOKED
INTEREST-
ING.

...YOU
SHOWED
UP.

ALTHOUGH
YOU'RE
WEARING
YOUR
YANKI
OUTFIT.



YOU
THINK I'M
GONNA
WEAR
THEM?!
HERE!

IT WOULD'VE
BEEN EVEN
MORE FUN
IF YOU WORE
THOSE
LOLITA
CLOTHES
...



HEY...

I WAS
WAITING
FOR YOU
GUYS.





ICHI-
GO?

MOMOKO
...

...GIVE
ME THOSE
CLOTHES.

I'LL
BE BACK
SOON.

WHY?

STUPID
FOOL

IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU DID
SUCH
A—

...I'D
FEEL
SO
GUILTY
...

BUT IF
HE FAILED
BECAUSE
OF ME...

YEAH,
HE PASSED
THE MORNING
PRELIMINARIES,
BUT HE DOESN'T
SEEM TO
BE DOING
TOO WELL
TODAY.

BUT
RAICHI CAN
USUALLY
JUMP MUCH
HIGHER.

WHERE...
WHERE'RE
THEY
HOLDING
THE
TEST?



I'M DOING
ALL THIS
FOR YOU...

What
language
was
that?



IT'S...LUNCH
BREAK...SO
RAICHI SHOULD
BE...IN THE
LOBBY?

What's
this Yanki
doing...?

WHERE
IS HE?
WHERE'S
RAICHI?

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

GRAB

THANK
YOU SO
VERY MUCH
A LOT!

HUH?

UM...

HAA

DAMN...

I'm
starting to
cough.

...SO
DON'T
YOU
GIVE UP,
RAICHI!

COFF

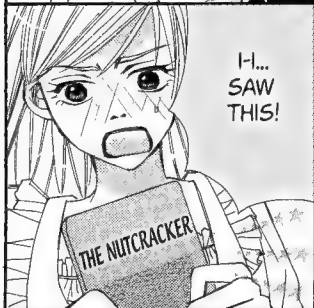
LOBBY



?...PLEASE
DO YOUR
BEST
IN THE
AUDITION
!

YOU'RE...
THE
POSTER
...?

Why?
Huh?



I-I...
SAW
THIS!



AH...
THANK YOU.
I'M GLAD,
BUT...

...THIS IS
PROBABLY
GOING
TO BE
MY LAST
AUDITION.



I-I...



SOMETIMES
I THINK IT'S
ABOUT TIME I
GIVE UP.

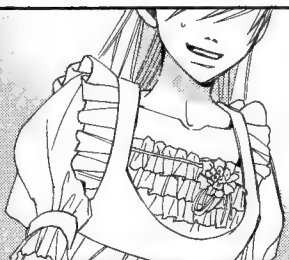


ARE YOU...
GOING TO
QUIT?

...AND
THE GAPS
KEEP WIDENING
BETWEEN ME
AND THOSE WHO
CAN AFFORD TO
STUDY ABROAD
AND HAVE THE
COOPERATION
OF THEIR
PARENTS.

THERE
ARE PEOPLE
WHO'VE BEEN
BROUGHT UP IN
A BETTER
ENVIRONMENT
THAN ME...

YOUR
LAST?!



HMPH.



YES...



...I DON'T
HAVE THE
TALENT.



DON'T
GIVE
UP...



...BEFORE
YOU'VE
EVEN
BEGUN
!!

AM

!

SHOW
WHAT AN
ASIAN
FRUIT
CAN
DO!

Ouch...

HUH?



FLY
HIGH, UP
TO THE
HEAVENS
!

JUST
THINK
ABOUT
FLYING
!

FLY!

FLY!





!

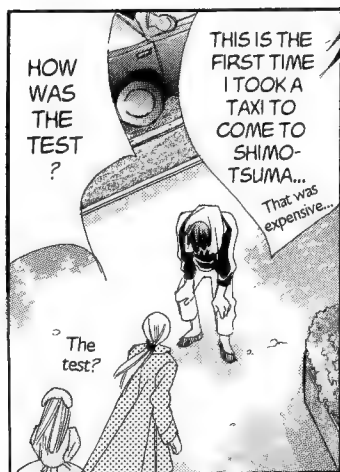
LOVING
SOME-
THING...

I...
LIKE...

...IS
ALREADY
A TALENT
IN
ITSELF.









LISTEN
TO ME...



BUT YOU DID
YOUR BEST,
RIGHT?
CONTINUE
DOING...
BALLET...



...I ALMOST
STUMBLED
DURING THE
PAS DE
DEUX...



...AND I
COULDN'T LIFT
THE DANCER
HIGH DURING THE
ENLEVEMENT,
LIKE I DID WITH
YOU...



I
LOST MY
BALANCE
...



...BUT I
MADE
IT!



SHE
TOLD
ME TO
FLY.



THE GIRL
IN THAT
POSTER WAS
THERE!



WHAT?!

YOU'RE
CUTER IN
PERSON!

HUH,
THAT'S
GOOD.

HUP

YOU'RE
...

...MY
GODDESS
OF
VICTORY
!

WHAAAT
?!

How'd
you
figure
it out
?!

I
DIDN'T
THINK
THIS
TOUGH
YANKI
WAS MY
MUSE!







...THE
ONE
I
WILL
LOVE
FROM
NOW
ON...

THE SKY
OF
SHIMO-
TSUMA
IS
SUNNY AS
USUAL.

...CONGRAT-
ULATE
YOU TWO
TODAY
!

And secondly, Raichi too.



HOW THE KAMIKAZE GIRLS MANGA WAS BORN.





KOYUBI HIME

(The
pinky-ring
princess)

THEY ARE
EXECUTIVE
WIVES
OF HIS
CUSTOM-
ERS.

He's a ladies'
man.

HE'S
ESCORTING
OLDER
WOMEN
TODAY TOO.
WOW!

MR. KASHIWAGI
IS HERE! HE'S
SO GOOD-
LOOKING.

...SOME-
BODY
I CAN'T
MEET AT
SCHOOL...

I
DETEST
CHILDISH
GUYS.

I WANT
TO GO
OUT
WITH A
GROWN-
UP...



MS.
RIRIKA!

IS
MOM
IN?

GROWN-
UP
GUYS
...

MOM IS
THE OWNER
OF AN
EXCLUSIVE
JEWELRY
STORE.

MS. RIRIKA
IS BEAUTIFUL—
SHE'S REALLY
LIKE THE
OWNER.

Haaa

...COME
TO
MOM'S
STORE.

OH...

I'M
WITH AN
IMPORTANT
CUSTOMER
...

RIRIKA? I'VE
TOLD YOU
NOT TO
COME
HERE...

HE-E-EY

I
DON'T
MIND.

...

HE'S
CASUALLY
WEARING
AN
ARMANI
SUIT...

...AND A
ROLEX
WATCH...

IT'S NICE TO
HAVE SOMEONE
TO TALK TO
WHILE THE
MADAMS ARE
SHOPPING.

WHY?
IT'S
CUTE.

I DON'T
LIKE THE
EXPRES-
SION
"GOOD
GIRL."

ALL
RIGHT, BE A
GOOD GIRL,
OKAY?

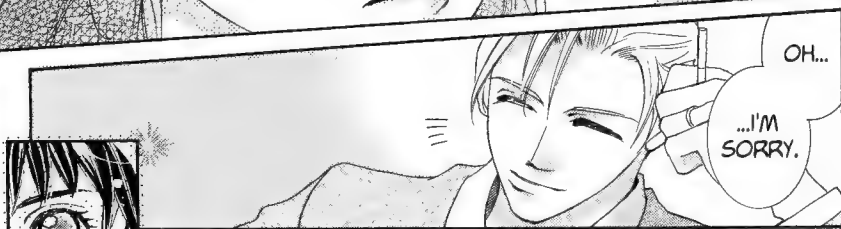
...I'D
LIKE
TO
FALL
IN
LOVE...

THEY'RE
WORDS YOU'D
SAY TO A
CHILD.

...WITH
A
MAN
LIKE
THIS.



IT'S
THE SAME
WITH
"CUTE."



OH...

...I'M
SORRY.



Huh
IT
MUST BE
TOUGH
TAKING
CARE OF
THEM.

THE
MADAMS
DO. I JUST
ACCOMPANY
THEM
HERE.

DO
YOU LIKE
JEWELRY?

DON'T
APOLO-
GIZE
SO
FAST...



THE
RING
FINGER
OF HIS
LEFT
HAND...



MR.
KASHIWAGI!
HOW
DOES
THIS
LOOK ON
ME?

AH,
THAT'S
PERFECT
FOR
YOU!



I'M
JUST A
WORKING
MAN, AND I
DON'T HAVE
THAT MUCH
MONEY.



SUGAR...

...and milk

SSSS



...I DIDN'T DRINK ANY OF THE COFFEE.

YOU NOTICED

That looks sooo beautiful!

Mr. Kashiwagi, you try on this ring too.



OOOH, MR. KASHIWAGI IS SOOO GOOD-LOOKING.

I WONDER WHEN HE'S COMING NEXT.

KYAA
KYAA



Thank you for coming.

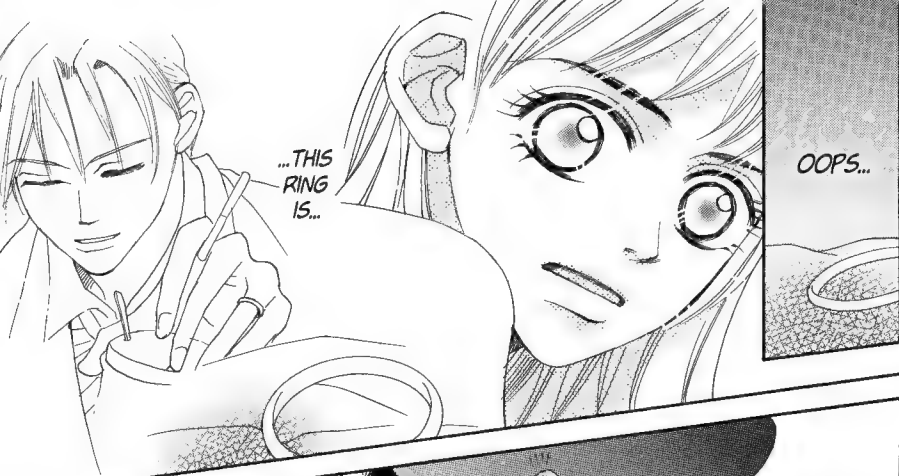
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN TREATED LIKE A CHILD!

THOUGH I SOMETIMES DRINK COFFEE, EVEN IF IT DON'T LIKE IT...

E.L.



THIS IS TOO SWEET!



I DON'T
LIKE GUYS
WHO
ARE SIMPLY
YOUNG.

What
happened?
...

Mr.
Kashiragi?

I'LL
GIVE IT
BACK...IF
YOU'D TAKE
ME SOME-
WHERE...

...NOW.

CHILDISH...
IMMATURE...

We're
going to
have
dinner
now.

That's
too
bad.

I-I'M
SORRY, I
FORGOT
SOMETHING
AT THE
STORE...

Please
go ahead.

...WITH
A
GROWN-
UP
MAN.

...MY
PRINCESS
?

SO...

...WHERE
YOU
LIKE TO
GO...

...I'D
LIKE
TO
FALL
IN
LOVE
...



JUST
TAKE ME
SOME-
WHERE.

I
DON'T
CARE.

SOMEBODY
WHO WILL
MAKE ME A
WOMAN.



UM...THE
BILL...

YOU
LOOK
GREAT.

I'M
PAYING.
DO YOU
TAKE
CREDIT
CARDS?



I DON'T
WANT
TO BE
TREATED
LIKE A
CHILD...

YOU HAVE
YOUR OWN
CREDIT
CARD.

But
you're still a
student.



HOW
DO I
LOOK
?

I WANT TO
BECOME
A WOMAN
AS SOON
AS
POSSIBLE
...

WHAT I
WANT
IS AN
"ADULT
RELATION-
SHIP."

... "WORKING
MAN."

YES,
SO I'M NOT
AFTER YOUR
MONEY...

THIS
IS SO
FUN.

This
cocktail is
sweet.

WOW,
THE NIGHT
VIEW IS
GORGEOUS
!

NOW
THAT THE
PRINCESS
IS HAPPY,
CAN I
PLEASE
HAVE
MY RING
BACK...

DAMN,
I'M
ACTING
LIKE A
HAPPY
CHILD.

NEXT
I WANT
TO...

THAT'S
GOOD.

HEH



OR ELSE
I'LL TELL THE
POLICE THAT
YOU DRAGGED
ME HERE BY
FORCE.

HUH?

...GO
OUT
FOR A
DRIVE!

Um...
uh...



OKAY, I
SUR-
RENDER.

WILL
YOU WAIT
WHILE I GO
GET MY
CAR?



NOOOOOO!



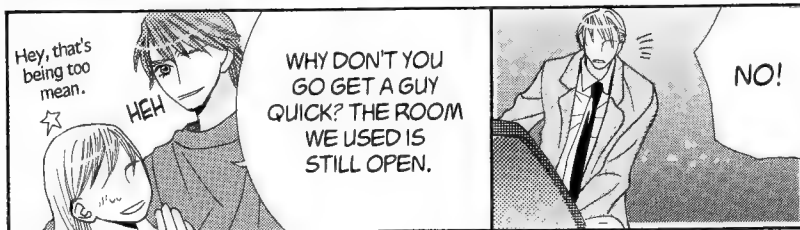
I'M
FORCING
THINGS,
BUT...

...DRAGGING A
GROWN-UP
AROUND...

...AM
I...

...REALLY
BECOMING
AN ADULT?

...FOOL-
ING
AROUND
IN THE
CITY AT
NIGHT
...





S-
STOP...



...TO
KEEP
YOU
WAITING.

I'M
SORRY...

LET'S
GO. I'LL
HAVE A SUITE
READY FOR
YOU.

Hey...
he's...
good...
looking
♥

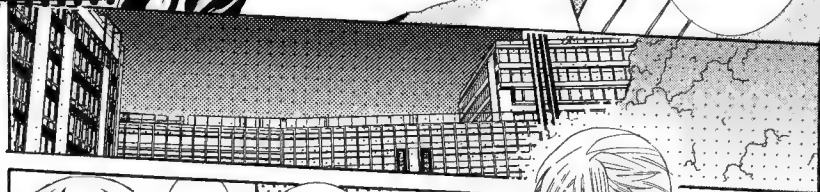
W-
who's
this
guy?



I TOLD
YOU TO
PLEASE
NOT TALK TO
OTHER GUYS,
RIGHT?

IT
MAKES ME
WORRIED.







...WAS
THE FIRST
GUY...

HE...

...I EVER
WENT OUT
WITH.

...

...

I REALLY
LIKED
HIM.

I
REALLY
LIKED
HIM,
SO...

"WHAT'S WITH
YOU? THAT'S
WHY I DIDN'T
WANT TO GO
OUT WITH
A KID
LIKE YOU."

BUT
WHEN WE
WENT TO
A HOTEL
FOR THE
FIRST
TIME...

...I WAS
AFRAID, AND
COULDN'T
ENTER THE
ROOM...

I DON'T
LIKE...
HAVING
SOMEONE
I LIKE SAY
THINGS LIKE
THAT TO
ME...

I
THOUGHT I
COULD DO
ANYTHING
WITH
HIM.



DRINK
THIS. WHEN
YOU'VE
CALMED
DOWN, I'LL
TAKE YOU
HOME.



I WANT
TO
BECOME
AN
ADULT
...

...AS
FAST AS
POSSIBLE
...

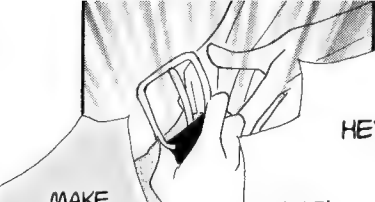


...WITH
SUGAR.

COFFEE
...



NO.



MAKE
LOVE
TO
ME!

HEY!

WAIT!

WE'VE
COME
THIS FAR,
AND YOU'RE
NOT GONNA
DO
ANYTHING?!

RIRIKA!

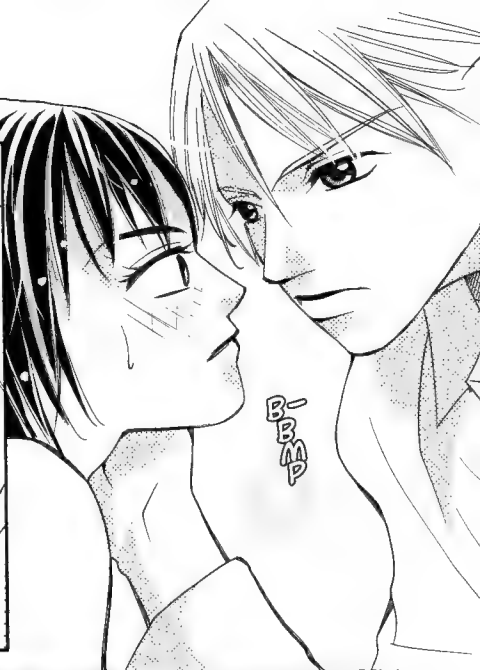


CLOSE
YOUR
EYES.

UH...

ALL
RIGHT.

...





THEN
WHY...

...ARE
YOU
CRYING?



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

WHAT
SHOULD A
GROWN-UP
BE DOING
NOW?

I
DON'T
KNOW.

...

AM I
RIGHT?

OR
AM I
WRONG
?



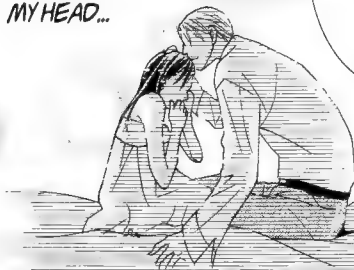
MR.
KASHIWAGI

...

...PATTED
MY HEAD...

...BECAUSE
YOU DO
UNDER-
STAND,
RIGHT?

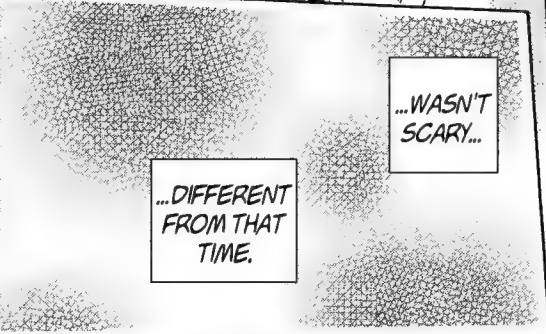
YOU'RE
CRYING...





HIS
WARM
CHEST

...AND
HIS LOW
VOICE,
SO COM-
FORTING
TO MY
EARS...



...WASN'T
SCARY...

...DIFFERENT
FROM THAT
TIME.



IT'S
ALREADY
MORN-
ING ?



...AND

...

...HELD
ME...

...LIKE
HE WAS
LULLING
A SMALL
CHILD.



WE JUST
SLEPT
TOGETHER
...



THAT'S
RIGHT...
...!!
RUSTLE



UGH
ULP?

UNGH.



...HE'S
SLEEPING
LIKE A
CHILD...

PWOOSH



!

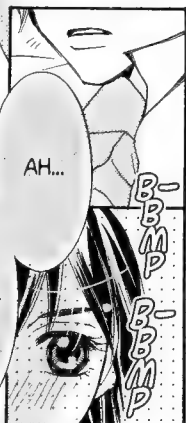


YEAH,
I KNOW,
I UNDER-
STAND.

UM...

SO?
WHAT
SHOULD
WE
DO?

HUH?



AH...

...MORN-
ING.

B-
B-
M
P

B-
B-
M
P
B-
B-
M
P

DO WE
HAVE THE
COURAGE
TO GO TO
SCHOOL
AND TO
WORK FROM
NOW?

...

YOU'RE
ALREADY
LATE FOR
SCHOOL
...

OKAY.

N-
NO...

...AND
I'VE MISSED
MY MORNING
MEETING
WITHOUT
NOTICE.

LET'S
GO.

HUH
?

WOO-
HOO

I'VE
ALWAYS
WANTED
TO CHECK OUT AN
AMUSEMENT
PARK ON A
WEEKDAY!

LET'S
CONTINUE
YESTERDAY'S
DATE!

These
clothes
...

UM...









Excuse
me, I'd
like
to...

...THE
SAME AS
YESTER-
DAY.

THE
SMELL OF
COLOGNE
...

HMPH.



IT'S
A GIFT
FROM
ME.

GIVE
ME
YOUR
HAND.

YOU'RE
BEING
HONEST
TODAY.



B-
B-
B-
P

FROM MR.
KASHIWAGI
?

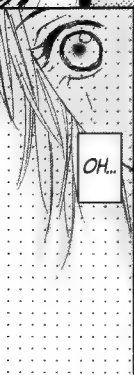
WHAT
?



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO...

B-
B-
B-
P

...I'M SO
HAPPY
...

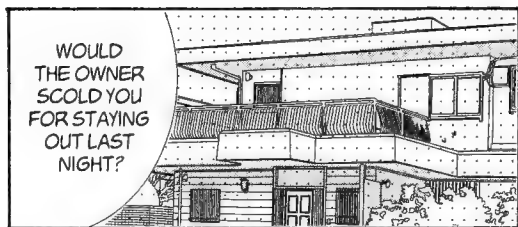


OH...

B-
B-
B-
P





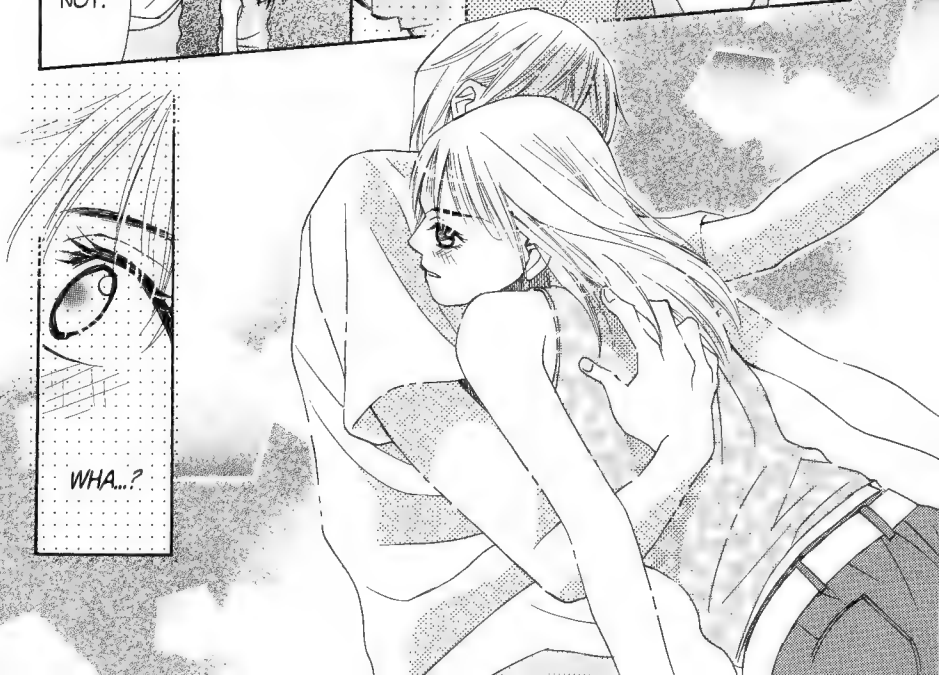


...CAN'T
HAVE
HIM
BUY...

...ONE
FOR
MY
RING
FINGER

...







DON'T
YOU
HAVE HIS
PHONE
NUMBER?

THE
EXECUTIVE
GROUP CAME
THE OTHER
DAY...

but
Mr. Kashiwagi
wasn't with
them.

THE
OWNER
HAS ALL THE
CUSTOMER
INFORMATION...
so we
don't...

I...I'M
STILL A
CHILD.

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND.

TALK
TO ME IN
A WAY
THAT I CAN
UNDER-
STAND.

PLEASE!
TELL
ME!

YOU
MUST
KNOW,
RIGHT
?

M-MS.
RIRIKA
?

MR.
KASHIWAGI
?

MR.
KASHIWAGI
...

I'VE
REACHED
MY LIMIT.



WELCOME.

FISH

UH...

...BUT
WE CAME
ANYWAY.

Do you have
anything new?

MR.
KASHIWAGI'S
NOT WITH
US TODAY
EITHER...

...

MR. KASHIWAGI LOST
AN IMPORTANT
DEAL BECAUSE HE
DIDN'T SHOW UP
AT A MEETING
THE OTHER
DAY...

...B-BUT HIS
PROBATION
SHOULD
BE OVER
SOON.

Who
is
this
girl
??

WHERE'S
MR.
KASHIWAGI
?

WHERE
IS HE?

GRAB

WHA
...?

I CAN'T
TAKE IT
ANY-
MORE.

...WHERE
MR.
KASHIWAGI
IS...

PLEASE
...

...PLEASE
TELL
ME...

I
DON'T
CARE
IF HE
LAUGHS
AT ME
FOR
BEING A
CHILD.

I CAN'T
PRETEND
AS IF
EVERY-
THING'S
OKAY.

I DON'T
HAVE TO BE
A GROWN-UP
ANYMORE...

FWISH

I
LOVE
YOU.

WHAT
THE...?!

IF I
CAN
SEE
MR.
KASHI-
WAGI...

!

I DON'T
CARE
THAT
I'M STILL
A CHILD.

I
REALLY
LOVE
YOU!

I
REALLY
LOVE
YOU!

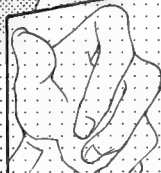
UM...

I DON'T
CARE IF
PEOPLE
CALL ME
SELFISH...

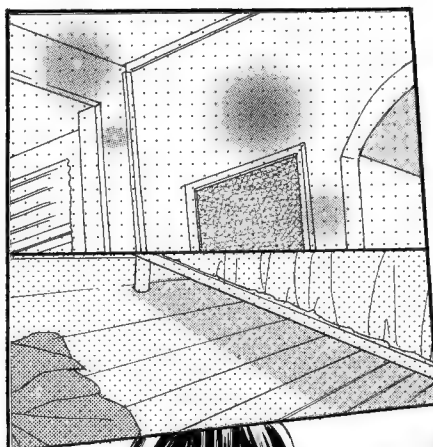
WHAT'RE
YOU
...

...SAYING
...

...JUST...
JUST
FOR
ONCE...



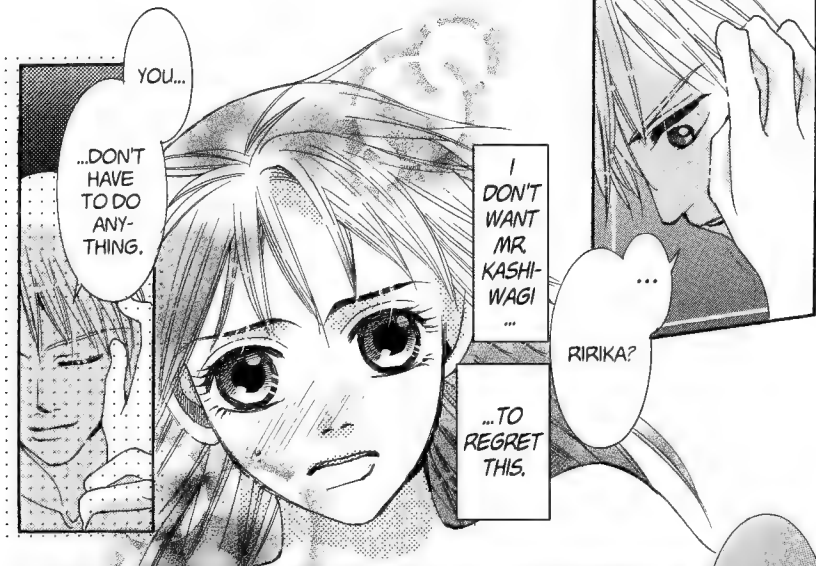
I WANT
MR.
KASHIWAGI
TO
HOLD
ME...



I
WON'T

...RE-
GRET
THIS.





YOU...

...DON'T
HAVE
TO
DO
ANY-
THING.

I
DON'T
WANT
MR.
KASHI-
WAGI
...

...TO
REGRET
THIS.

...
RIRIKA?



JUST
BE
STILL
...

...AND
FEEL
ME.

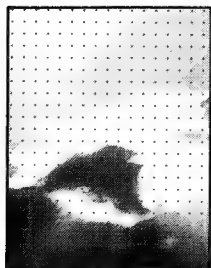
...BEING
A
CHILD
...

...I
DON'T
CARE
EITHER
WAY.

BEING
AN
ADULT
...

I'M
HAPPY
...

...JUST
BEING
WITH
HIM.



...

I
GUESS
...



AND
THE RING-
FINGER
PRINCESS
GAINS THE
LOVE OF
JUST ONE
PERSON.



Thank you,
Here's the ring.

Ririka

...THAT
THUMBELINA
IS
LOVED BY
EVERYBODY.



...THE
ONE
NIGHT...

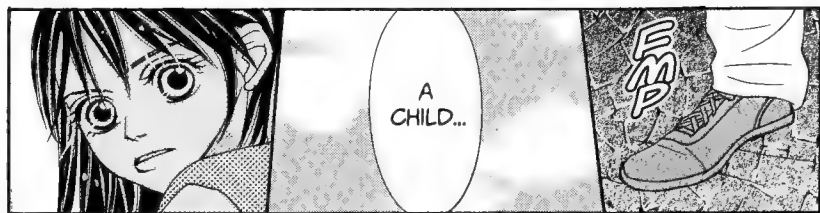
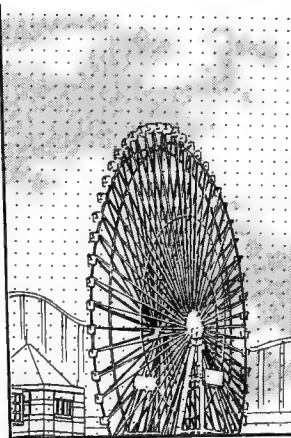
...PINKY-
RING
PRIN-
CESS.



CLICK

AND
I'M...

GOOD-
BYE.





FWOOSH

THE RING
...

MR.
KASHI-
WAGI...

SWIP



YOU WERE
WITH
ME ALL
NIGHT AND
YOU
DIDN'T
NOTICE?

WHAT
?

I DIDN'T
NEED
IT THREE
MONTHS
AGO.

Um...

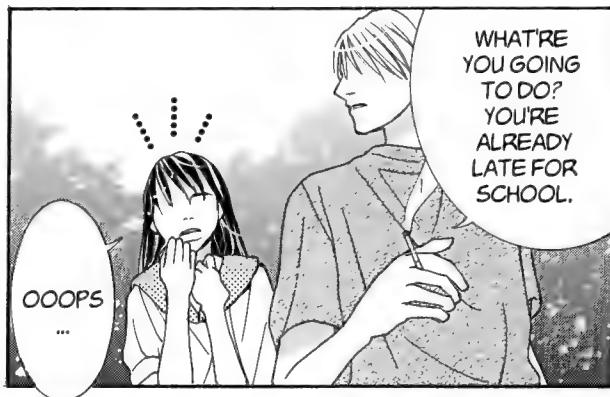
THAT...
WAS YOUR
WEDDING
BAND...

PEOPLE
SAY THINGS
AT WORK
WHEN
THEY FIND
OUT I'VE
GOTTEN
DIVORCED.



...



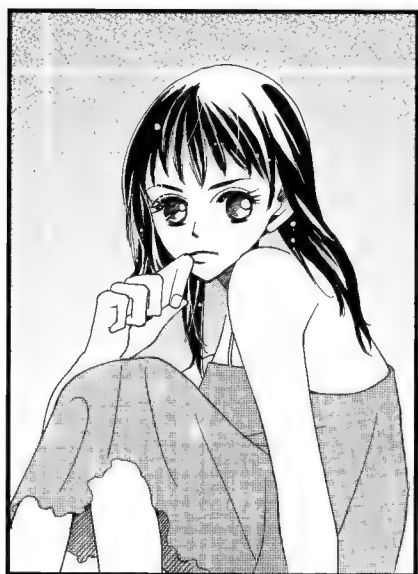


THE STORY
OF THE
PINKY-RING
PRINCESS
WHO CAN'T
BE A
GROWN-UP...



...HAS
JUST
BEGUN
...

...THE
DESSERT
BUFFET!





WHO'S
"MAMI"?!

AS YOU
GO OUT WITH
SOMEBODY,
YOU GET TO
KNOW THINGS
ABOUT THEM.

NAKAYUBI
HIME
(The
middle-finger
princess)

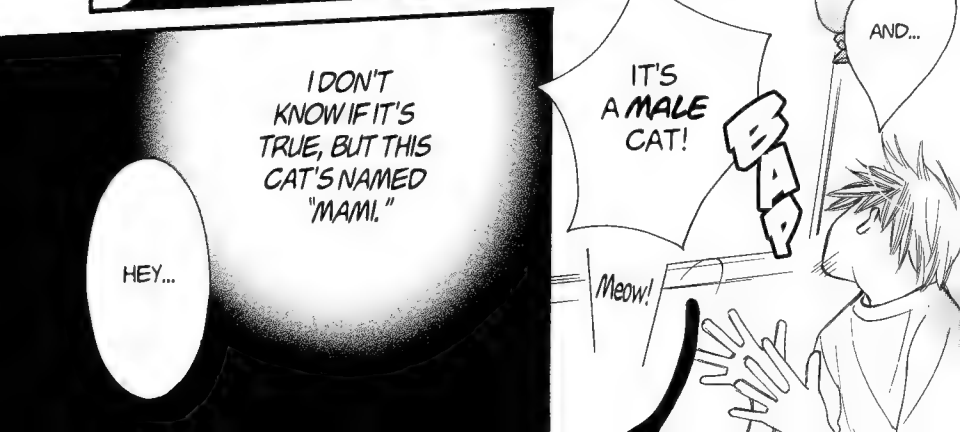
HE
SLEEPS
TILL
NOON
ON HIS
DAYS
OFF...

...HE
WAKES
UP
PRETTY
QUICKLY.

GOOD
MORNING.

DRIPPING

MORNIN'.





STARE

HA?



HEH

HE THINKS
SWEETS
ALWAYS
MAKE
ME FEEL
ALL RIGHT.



...



...I HAVE
SOME ICE CREAM
IN THE FREEZER.
WHY DON'T YOU EAT
THE COOKIES &
CREAM?

OOOH,
I'LL HAVE
SOME!









DO
YOU...

...MAKE
ANY
EXCUSES
ABOUT
HIS
PAST.

...HAVE
ANY OTHER
QUESTIONS
?

I'VE
HEARD
ENOUGH.

All those
women...

25

BUT
IF I'M
STILL
UPSET...

...HE
TRIES TO
MAKE
UP BY
KISSING
ME
CLUMSILY.

THE ICE
CREAM
IS
REALLY
GOOD.







...YOU GET
TO KNOW
THINGS
ABOUT
THEM.



HE
LIKES
CHOCO-
LATES
TOO.

HE
HAS
LOTS
OF
ALCOHOL
I DON'T
RECOG-
NIZE.



HE
DOESN'T
LIKE TO
QUARREL.
The
workingman
smile.
HE'S
ALWAYS
SMILING.

I'M
ALWAYS
THE
ONE
WHO'S
JEALOUS.



HIS
FAVORITE
COLOR
IS BLUE
...

...HE
HAS
LOTS
OF
DVDs.



RIRI
...



...WHO
TELLS
HIM
—
I
LOVE
HIM.

IT'S
ALWAYS
ME...

BUT
IT'S ALL
RIGHT.



THERE
ARE
DEFI-
NITELY

RIRIKA?



...MANY
SECRETS
I STILL
DON'T
KNOW YET.

WOOF

...

HE
JUST...

...HAS
TO
TELL
ME,
LITTLE
BY
LITTLE.

"LET'S
GET
MARRIED!"

That's
rushing
it.

"I
LIKE
YOU"?

I'm
telling her
now?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
TO SAY.
"I LOVE
YOU"?

No, that's
being too
serious.

I'm
happy just
watching
your drooling
face.

She'll
beat me up
if I said
that.

goo
goo

MEOW
MEOW

ONE HOUR
HAS PASSED—



?
I DREW LOLITA VERSIONS
OF RIRIKA AND KASHIWABE
OF KOYUBI HIME.

KOYUBI HIME IS AN OLD
WORK, SO I'M A BIT
EMBARRASSED ABOUT
MY DRAWING.

KAMIKAZE GIRLS

WHEN I DREW THE SECOND
KAMIKAZE GIRLS STORY, I
CREATED MY OWN CHARACTERS.
THANK YOU SO MUCH TO
NOVALA TAKEMOTO-SENSEI
FOR LISTENING TO MY REQUESTS
WITH A SMILE. TO EVERYONE
WHO ASSISTED IN THIS WORK,
TO EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT
THIS BOOK, THANK YOU SO
VERY MUCH!

ISOBE-SAN GOGO.



MOMOKO THINKS "HE ONLY HAS COMMON SENSE."



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Yukio Kanesada:

Born June 11, Gemini, Blood

Type A, Raised in Tokyo, Japan.

Nagasaki.

This author is a male, 5'10" tall, and

weighs 160 lbs. He is a

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1 Dog, 1 Cat, 1 Fish, 1 Bird,

2001, August 5 (Mort).

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Born January 2, Earth, Capricorn.

Kyoto, Aquarius.

Devoted wife, 1 child, 1 dog,

1 cat, 1 fish, 1 bird, 1

Yukio Mishima Prize for litera-

ture, 1st prize, 1st prize,

1st prize, 1st prize, 1st

prize, 1st prize, 1st prize,

1st prize, 1st prize, 1st

prize, 1st prize, 1st prize,

1st prize, 1st prize, 1st

prize, 1st prize.

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KAMIKAZE GIRLS

Shojo Beat Manga Edition

TAKEMOTO

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In Japan as "Shimotsuki's Kamikaze Girls"

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KAMIKAZE GIRLS is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes, alcohol and tobacco use, and harsh language.



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FREE PREVIEW

Kamikaze Girls

Novala Takemoto

Translated by
Akemi Wegmüller

Kamikaze Girls

Kamikaze Girls depicts the unusual friendship between a bored girl stuck in rural Japan who fantasizes about 18th century France and a spunky biker girl. Please enjoy this excerpt from the novel that inspired the manga and popular movie, both available from VIZ Media.

In the end, I decided to contact only the girl from Ibaraki, who happened to live in Shimotsuma too and was named Ichiko Shirayuri. “Miz Ryugasaki. Pleeze let me buy your Versace stuff. I don’t have much money so I can’t pay you a whole lot, but I really want some Versace no matter what, so I beg you wherefore pleeze.” The writing was printed out in block letters, *please* was spelled “pleeze,” and the ending had the mysterious, nonsensical clause, “so I beg you wherefore pleeze.” I suppose she meant “so I beg you therefore please,” which *still* wouldn’t make much sense. But how was I to answer a request couched in the interrogative form of “wherefore please”? Guessing that the writer was maybe in the first year of middle school, I sent her the following answer: “Dear Miss Shirayuri, Thank you for your letter. Regarding the merchandise, I have a considerable variety of items in large quantities. If you would kindly inform me what sort of things you desire, I will select suitable items and send you another letter detailing their color, design, shape, and other particulars. As for the price, I am open to negotiation. However, as I stated in my ad, all of the Versace items I have are counterfeits, and I request your understanding of this point.” Wondering if I had used too many big words and complicated sentence structures—did she even know what “particulars” and “negotiation” meant?—I sent off the letter anyway. I received an answer right away, the gist

Novala Takemoto

of which was that she lived in Shimotsuma too, so would it be all right if she came by sometime to see the merchandise for herself? Well, if she was just a middle schooler, I didn't see any problem with inviting her to the house. I called the cell phone number given in her letter and arranged to have her come over after lunch that Saturday.

School ended at noon on Saturday, and I went straight home because that girl was coming over. Even though she was younger than me, it would be our first meeting and moreover, she was going to be buying clothes from me. Thinking it would be rude to greet her without being dressed at least somewhat properly, I decided to wear my white rose-patterned lace blouse with a black velvet knee-length skirt that's decorated in front with ladder lace and all kinds of other white lace, while the back is like curtains that are closed at the top and draped back at the sides, and where the velvet would ordinarily fall—namely the middle of the hips—layers of tulle peek out like bustles. On my head I perched a large white ribbon made to be worn like a headdress, and then I went to the room where all the bogus Versace was stored to arrange everything, sorting it into piles by type while I waited.

We had agreed to meet at one thirty, but she didn't appear. Maybe she was lost? Perhaps my directions had been inadequate. I'd told her to go just a little bit east on Route 131 where it intersects Route 249, and take the first left, which is a narrow road—it was an ordinary farmhouse with rice paddies in front, and she'd see it right after she turned. Maybe that wasn't detailed enough? But there was nothing around the house, so how else could I explain how to get here? As I sat there waiting, I suddenly

Kamikaze Girls

heard the noisy cacophony of an engine, probably from the motorcycle of a passing Yanki. The loud vrooming sound gradually got louder, and then it stopped. Just when I thought it was finally quiet again, the earsplitting sound of those horns that Yanki like to put on their bikes and cars, arranged to play the *Godfather* theme, rang out: *parara rararara rarararaa!! parara rararara rararararaa!!!!* It was blasted out repeatedly, over and over. The source of the sound seemed to be right in front of our house, or at least very close to it, so I ventured out into the yard. The most outrageous motorcycle was parked out front.

In front of the handlebars towered an indescribably strange sunshade-type thing, fixed willy-nilly without any thought of balance, and painted with the Rising Sun. The seat had a backrest, which stretched so high skyward that if Giant Baba stood behind it, his head probably wouldn't show over the top. The seat itself was leopard-print. And the sunshade and backrest were not the only elongated features: behind the backrest were attached what would be called "tail fins" on a car, I believe, like super-long fake nails only a thousand times larger, and these too spread upward, reaching about as high as the seat and painted a camouflage pattern. The muffler was twisted, turned out, and extended, and again, pointed up. This muffler, while oddly shaped, was an ordinary metallic silver color, but the rest of the body was painted shocking pink all over, and overlaid with glitter. This was obviously a hot rod belonging to a Yanki, or more specifically, a Zokki—a member of a Bosozoku biker gang. I had seen bikes of this sort in Amagasaki and here in Ibaraki, but this was my first experience of seeing one this crazily souped-up from right up close. *Could*

Novala Takemoto

something sporting so many decorations both in front and back actually run? Just the accessories alone look pretty heavy—is what I thought as I gazed upon the chopper from a distance, giving it minus a thousand style points for the garish bad taste of its color scheme and utterly nonexistent sense of design. I mean to say, an ordinary motorcycle would probably be fine with all those embellishments so long as it had enough horsepower, but the bike in front of my eyes was, in spite of all the gnarly remodeling, a scooter. No matter how you looked at it, it was a plain old 50cc scooter.

This freakish scooter stopped blasting its horn when it realized I was there. And then, the person who had been doing the blasting, namely the person who had been riding the bike, got off of it and started walking toward me. The person had straight bleached-blond hair down to her shoulders, wore blue eye shadow and bright red lipstick, and had on a navy-blue school uniform comprised of a short jacket and a very long skirt with a prodigious number of pleats, which dragged on the ground. On her feet were—well, it would sound good to call them “mules,” but actually they were cheap purple slip-on sandals of the type moms wear when going out to the neighborhood supermarket, and their sparkles glinted in the sun. *Wow, a sukeban, and a super old-school one too... Who knew bad girls wearing outfits like this still existed? Hand it to Ibaraki—this place is deep. If a curator for a natural history museum saw her, she'd immediately be captured and exhibited next to a stegosaur skeleton in the Fossils section.* As I was thinking this and watching her approach with some trepidation because, let's face it, people like that are kinda scary, the *sukeban* yelled out to me in a loud voice.

Kamikaze Girls

“Hey girlie, my name’s Shirayuri. Would Miz Momoko be around at home?”

If that was an attempt at polite language, it was a shambles. But anyway, being the “girlie” addressed, I said yes. Oh dear, this was that Ichiko Shirayuri who really wanted Versace no matter what! From the clumsy style of her letter I had assumed she would be about thirteen years old, but there was no question now that she was a bona-fide high-schooler, about the same age as I. It would seem the awkwardness of her letter derived not from childishness but from simple ignorance, or should I say, stupidity. As I fidgeted in the garden, thinking what a pain it was to get involved with someone of this sort, the *sukeban* spoke again.

“So could you conduct me over to Miz Momoko if you will?”

To this, I answered nervously, “Um, I’m Momoko, actually.”

You should have seen her face when she heard that. She twisted her mouth and widened her eyes, and her expression could have been taken as wanting to pick a fight, or being really sad and about to burst into tears, either way.

TO BE CONTINUED...

**The *Kamikaze Girls* full-length novel will be
available soon from VIZ Media at bookstores
near you!**